

NOVEL PHYTASE AND GENE ENCODING SAID PHYTASE

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Abstract

This invention relates to an inexpensive phytase with a low Km value for phytic acid, DNA coding for the phytase, recombinant DNA having the DNA introduced therein, a transformant carrying the recombinant DNA, a process for preparing a phytase by use of the transformant, and an animal feed comprising the phytase.

Data supplied from the esp@cenet database - I2

GAG CAG GAG CCT TTG GTC CGT GTC TTG GTT AAT GAT CGT GTT GTT CCG 1407
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 5 CTG CAT GGC TGT CCG GTT GAT GCT TTG GGA AGA TGT ACG CGG GAT AGC 1455
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 410 415 420
 TTC GTG AAG GGG TTG AGC TTT GCC AGA TCT GGC GGT GAT TGG GGG GAG 1503
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 425 430 435 440
 10 TGT TTC GCT TAG 1515
 Cys Phe Ala
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15 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:
 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 32
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 20 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid, synthetic DNA
 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

25 GGGAATTCAT GGGCGTCTCT GCTGTTCTAC TT 32

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:
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 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 30 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid, synthetic DNA
 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

35 GGGAATTCCT AAGCAAAACA CTCCGCCCAA TC 32

40

Claims

- 45 1. A phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
2. A phytase according to claim 1 having the following physicochemical properties:
- 50 (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate,
 fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate;
 and
 55 (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
3. A phytase according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the phytase is a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the

amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.

- 5 4. A phytase according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the phytase is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
5. A phytase according to claim 4 wherein the microorganism belonging to the Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
- 10 6. A phytase according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the phytase has carbohydrate chains.
- ✓ 7. A gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
- 15 8. A gene according to claim 7 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - 20 (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and
 - (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
- 25 9. A gene according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
- 30 10. A gene according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the gene is a gene selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS:4 and 5.
11. A gene according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the gene is a gene derived from a microorganism belonging to the
- 35 genus Aspergillus.
12. A gene according to claim 11 wherein the microorganism belonging to the Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
- 40 ✓ 13. Recombinant DNA obtained by introducing into a vector a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
14. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - 45 (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate;
 - 50 and
 - (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
15. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid
- 55 sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.

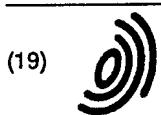
16. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the gene is selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS:4 and 5.
17. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the gene is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
18. Recombinant DNA according to claim 17 wherein the microorganism belonging to the Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
19. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the recombinant DNA is pANPHY1.
20. A transformant carrying recombinant DNA obtained by introducing into a vector a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
21. A transformant according to claim 20 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and
 - (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
22. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
23. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the gene is a gene selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 5.
24. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the gene is a gene derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
25. A transformant according to claim 24 wherein the microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
26. A transformant according to claim 20 or 21 wherein the recombinant DNA is pANPHY1.
27. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms belonging to the genera Escherichia, Serratia, Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Trichoderma, Neurospora, Mucor, Penicillium, Kluyveromyces, Saccharomyces and Schizosaccharomyces.
28. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of Aspergillus niger MH-PA1 (FERM BP-5372), Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1 (FERM BP-5373) and Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3.
29. A process for preparing a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate, which comprises culturing in a medium a microorganism having the ability to produce and accumulate the phytase, producing and accumulating the phytase, and recovering the phytase from the culture.
30. A process according to claim 29 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;

(3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;

(4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and

(5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.

31. A process according to claim 29 or claim 30 wherein the microorganism is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
32. A process according to claim 29 or claim 30 wherein the microorganism is a transformant carrying recombinant DNA obtained by introducing into a vector a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
33. A process according to claim 32 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
34. A process according to claim 32 wherein the gene is selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 5.
35. A process according to claim 32 wherein the gene is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
36. A process according to claim 35 wherein the microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
37. A process according to claim 32 wherein the recombinant DNA is pANPHY1.
38. A process according to claim 32 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms belonging to the genera Escherichia, Serratia, Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Trichoderma, Neurospora, Mucor, Penicillium, Kluyveromyces, Saccharomyces and Schizosaccharomyces.
39. A process according to claim 32 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of Aspergillus niger MH-PA1 (FERM BP-5372), Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1 (FERM BP-5373) and Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3.
40. An animal feed comprising a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.



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(54) **NOVEL PHYTASE AND GENE ENCODING SAID PHYTASE**

(57) This invention relates to an inexpensive phytase with a low Km value for phytic acid, DNA coding for the phytase, recombinant DNA having the DNA introduced thereinto, a transformant carrying the recombinant DNA, a process for preparing a phytase by use of the transformant, and an animal feed comprising the phytase.

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Description

Technical Field

5 [0001] The present invention relates to an inexpensive phytase with a low Michaelis constant (hereinafter abbreviated to Km) for phytic acid, which degrades phytic acid as an anti-trophic factor contained in feed, thereby improving the nutritive value of the feed and enabling an efficient utilization of phosphoric acid released by the degradation; and to a gene coding for the phytase.

10 Background Art

[0002] Phosphorus is an essential element for all organisms. Plant-derived feeds used for the production of domestic animals contain phosphorus, 50 to 70 % of which is present as phytic acid. Phytic acid is a major storage substance of phosphoric acid, existing in a large amount in plant seeds. However, phytic acid is excreted without digestion and absorption in the digestive organs in single-stomach animals such as pigs, chickens, etc. That is, phytic acid is a storage substance of phosphoric acid, but its phosphorus is not utilized at all. Accordingly, phosphoric acid is added to feed for single-stomach animals for the purpose of growth promotion.

[0003] Addition of phosphoric acid to the feed leads to an increase in the amount of phosphorus in excrement. In recent years, excrement from domestic animals increase considerably as the production of domestic animals increases more and more, whereby an environmental problem is now caused in the world. In particular, phosphorus contained in excrement is mentioned as a factor causing the phenomenon of nutrition enrichment in lakes and marshes, so the amount of phosphorus in excrement comes to be regulated, and there arises necessity for countermeasure.

[0004] In addition to the problem of excreted phosphorus, phytic acid chelates divalent metals important as a nutritive source, such as magnesium, calcium, zinc and iron, thereby making its absorption into animals difficult and reducing the nutritive value of feed. Accordingly, phytic acid is regarded as an anti-trophic factor.

[0005] From the foregoing, it has been examined to decrease the amount of phosphorus in excrement by treating the feed with a phytase known widely as an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing a salt of phytic acid into inositol and inorganic phosphoric acid in order to utilize phosphoric acid released from phytic acid in place of phosphoric acid conventionally added in feed, and it has also been examined to improve the nutritive value of the feed by decomposing phytic acid as an anti-trophic factor [U.S. Patent No. 3,297,548 (1967); J. Nutrition, 101, 1289-1294 (1971)].

[0006] Known as phytase-producing microorganisms are bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis* and *Pseudomonas*, yeasts such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and filamentous fungi such as *Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus ficcum* and *Aspergillus awamori*.

[0007] For phytase derived from *Aspergillus ficcum*, its purification and biochemical properties are described in Preparative Biochem., 18, 443-458 (1988), and its gene and amino acid sequence are described in Gene, 127, 87-94 (1993).

[0008] For phytase derived from *Aspergillus awamori*, its nucleotide sequence and amino acid sequence are described in Gene, 133, 55-62 (1993).

[0009] Michaelis constants (Km) for phytases known so far are 0.57 mM for wheat bran-derived phytase [Agr. Biol. Chem., 26, 794-803 (1962)], 0.17 mM for rice bran-derived phytase [Agr. Biol. Chem., 53, 1475-1483 (1989)], 117 μ M for maize (*Zea mays*)-derived phytase, 250 μ M for *Aspergillus ficcum*-derived phytase (WO 91/05053), 330 μ M for *Aspergillus oryzae*-derived phytase, 150 μ M *Bacillus subtilis*-derived phytase, 500 μ M for *Bacillus natto*-derived phytase, and 130 μ M for *Escherichia coli*-derived phytase.

[0010] To demonstrate the performance of the enzyme, the concentration of a substrate is necessary to be higher than Km, and if an enzyme with low Km and an enzyme with high Km have the same maximum reaction rate (Vmax), the enzyme with low Km does not decrease a reaction rate even at a lower substrate concentration as compared with the enzyme with high Km.

[0011] That is, when compared with the enzyme with high Km, the enzyme with low Km is advantageous in that a sufficient degradation rate can be achieved even at a lower substrate concentration, thereby minimizing the amount of the remaining substrate.

[0012] Accordingly, there is a demand for an inexpensive phytase with a low Km value for phytic acid, which phytase degrades phytic acid being an anti-trophic factor contained in feed, thereby improving the nutritive value of the feed and simultaneously achieving an efficient utilization of phosphoric acid released by the degradation.

55 Description of the Invention

[0013] The present invention relates to a phytase (hereinafter referred to as "novel phytase") having a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate, DNA coding for the phytase, recombinant DNA having the

DNA introduced thereinto, a transformant carrying the recombinant DNA, a process for preparing a phytase by use of the transformant, and an animal feed containing the phytase.

[0014] The present invention will be described in detail.

[0015] A specific example of the novel phytase of the present invention includes: a phytase with the following physicochemical properties:

- (1) Km value: 10 to 30 μ M;
 - (2) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (3) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (4) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - (5) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and
 - (6) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.; or
- a phytase protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or 2.

[0016] Furthermore, the present invention encompasses a novel phytase having an amino acid sequence (for example, shown in SEQ ID NO:3) in which a secretory signal sequence has been linked to the novel phytase described above.

[0017] The present invention further includes a phytase having an amino acid sequence comprising substitutions, deletions or additions of one or more amino acids relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No: 1, 2 or 3; having a homology of 40% or more to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 2 or 3; and having a Michaelis constant (Km) of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate. The phytase has preferably a homology of 60 % or more, more preferably 80 % or more.

[0018] The substitution, deletion or addition of amino acids can be carried out according to methods described in Nucleic Acids Research, **10**, 6487 (1982), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA, **79**, 6409 (1982), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA, **81**, 5662 (1984), Science, **224**, 1431 (1984), PCT WO85/00817 (1985), Nature, **316**, 601 (1985), Gene, **34**, 315 (1985), Nucleic Acids Research, **13**, 4431 (1985), Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, chapter eight "Mutagenesis of Cloned DNA", John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (1989), etc.

[0019] The novel phytase can also be obtained from any microorganisms having the ability to produce it. Among them, preferable examples are microorganisms belonging to the genus Aspergillus and having the ability to produce the novel phytase. More preferable examples include Aspergillus niger strain SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or mutants or derived strains thereof. Aspergillus niger strain SK92 (FERM BP-5481) is included in mutants derived from Aspergillus niger strain SK57.

[0020] The gene (hereinafter referred to as "novel phytase gene") coding for the novel phytase of the present invention may be any gene coding for the novel phytase: for example, a gene coding for a phytase having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 2 or 3; or a gene coding for a phytase which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 2 or 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a Michaelis constant (Km) of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate. The gene may contain introns in the DNA sequence. Specifically, the gene of the present invention includes DNA shown in SEQ ID NO:4, or DNA shown in SEQ ID NO:5 containing introns in its sequence.

[0021] Further, the novel phytase gene of the present invention includes DNA capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions with the above-defined DNA, and of bringing about the corresponding phytase activity.

[0022] The term "DNA capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions" as described herein refers to DNA obtainable using colony hybridization, plaque hybridization or Southern blot hybridization wherein any DNA contained in the base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 or 5 is used as a probe. A specific example thereof is DNA which can be identified by subjecting it to hybridization with a colony or plaque derived DNA-immobilized filter in the presence 0.7 to 1.0 M NaCl at 65 °C and then washing the filter at 65°C with a 0.1 to 2 x SSC solution (1xSSC solution is composed of 150 mM sodium chloride and 15 mM sodium citrate).

[0023] Hybridization can be effected according to methods described in Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed., Sambrook, Fritsch, Maniatis, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989) (hereinafter abbreviated to "Molecular Cloning, 2nd ed."). Specifically, the DNA capable of hybridizing includes DNA having a homology of 60 % or more, preferably 80 % or more, more preferably 95 % or more to the base sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or 5.

[0024] A DNA fragment containing the novel phytase gene can be obtained from any microorganisms having the ability to produce novel phytase. Although any microorganism having the ability to produce novel phytase can be used, preferable examples are microorganisms belonging to the genus Aspergillus and having the ability to produce novel phytase, more preferably Aspergillus niger strain SK57 or mutants or derived strains thereof. Aspergillus niger strain SK92 is included in mutants of Aspergillus niger strain SK57.

[0025] Aspergillus niger strain SK57 was deposited as FERM BP-5473 on March 22, 1996 and Aspergillus niger strain

SK92 as FERM BP-5481 on March 12, 1996, respectively, with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, 1-3, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305 Japan.

[0026] Further, an animal feed comprising the novel phytase is included in the present invention.

[0027] Hereinafter, the method of obtaining the phytase gene derived from microorganisms having the ability to produce the novel phytase will be described.

[0028] Chromosomal DNA is prepared from microorganisms having the ability to produce the novel phytase by using a conventional DNA isolation method, for example, the phenol method [Biochim. Biophys. Acta., 72, 619 (1963)]. The resulting chromosomal DNA is cleaved with suitable restriction enzymes, and these fragments cleaved with the restriction enzymes are introduced into vector DNA to construct a genomic DNA library from the microorganism. This DNA library is used to transform a host microorganism. The resulting transformants are selected for a transformant containing the novel phytase gene through hybridization. A DNA containing the gene of interest can be obtained from the selected transformant.

[0029] A series of these procedures can follow in vitro recombination techniques known in the art (Molecular Cloning, 2nd ed.).

[0030] The vector DNA for constructing the genomic cDNA library of the microorganism having the ability to produce novel phytase may be any of phage vectors, plasmid vectors, etc. which are autonomously replicable in *E. coli* strain K12. Examples thereof are ZAP Express [Strategies, 5, 58 (1992); Stratagene], pBluescript II SK(+) [Nucleic Acids Research, 17, 9494 (1989), Stratagene], λ zap II (Stratagene), λ gt10, λ gt11 [DNA Cloning, A Practical Approach, 1, 49 (1985)], Lambda BlueMid (Clontech), λ ExCell (Pharmacia), pT7 T3 18U (Pharmacia), pcD2 [Mol. Cell. Biol., 3, 280 (1983)] and pUC18 [Gene, 33, 103 (1985)].

[0031] The host microorganism may be any microorganism belonging to the genus *Escherichia*. Examples thereof are *Escherichia coli* XL1-Blue MRF' [Strategies, 5, 81 (1992); Stratagene], *Escherichia coli* C600 [Genetics, 39, 440 (1954)], *Escherichia coli* Y1088 [Science, 222, 778 (1983)], *Escherichia coli* Y1090 [Science, 222, 778 (1983)], *Escherichia coli* NM522 [J. Mol. Biol., 166, 1 (1983)], *Escherichia coli* K802 [J. Mol. Biol., 16, 118 (1996)], *Escherichia coli* JM105 [Gene, 38, 275 (1985)], *Escherichia coli* JM109, *Escherichia coli* XL1-Blue, *Escherichia coli* XL2-Blue, *Escherichia coli* DH1, *Escherichia coli* MC1000, etc.

[0032] The transformant carrying the novel phytase gene can be selected by hybridization.

[0033] The probe useful in hybridization includes an oligonucleotide synthesized on the basis of a partial amino acid sequence determined for novel phytase. If another phytase gene has already been obtained from a class of microorganism closely related to the microorganism having the ability to produce novel phytase, the gene can be used in some case as the probe for the novel phytase gene. The gene which can be used in such case as the probe includes a phytase gene from *Aspergillus ficcum*.

[0034] The phytase gene from *Aspergillus ficcum* can be obtained by preparing its chromosomal DNA according to the above-described method and amplifying its phytase gene by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with DNA primers which have been synthesized based on the DNA sequence of the phytase gene from *Aspergillus ficcum*.

[0035] The DNA primers can be synthesized using a conventional DNA synthesizer such as a DNA synthesizer (Shimadzu Seisakusho, Japan) utilizing the thiophosphite method, a DNA synthesizer model 392 (Perkin Elmer) or 380A DNA synthesizer (Applied Systems) utilizing the phosphoramidite method. Examples of the DNA primer synthesized in this manner include DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS:6 and 7.

[0036] The DNA containing the novel phytase gene obtained from the transformant selected by hybridization is analyzed by the method such as the dideoxy method of Sanger et al. [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 74, 5463 (1977)], whereby the base sequence of the gene can be determined. The analysis of the base sequence can also be effected using an automatic base sequence analyzer such as SQ-5500 DNA sequencer (Hitachi) or 373A DNA sequencer (Perkin Elmer).

[0037] The thus determined nucleotide sequence of the novel phytase gene includes e.g. the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or 5.

[0038] For expression in hosts, the novel phytase gene thus obtained may be expressed by the method described in Molecular Cloning, 2nd ed. or Current Protocols in Molecular Biology Supplements 1-34.

[0039] First, the DNA fragment containing the novel phytase gene is cleaved with restriction enzymes or DNase to form DNA fragments having a suitable size containing the novel phytase gene, then inserted into a region downstream of a promoter in an expression vector, followed by introducing the expression vector into which the DNA has been inserted, into a host compatible with the expression vector.

[0040] Any host can be used insofar as it can express the gene of interest. Examples thereof include prokaryotes belonging to the genera *Escherichia*, *Serratia*, *Corynebacterium*, *Brevibacterium*, *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Microbacterium*, etc.; filamentous fungi belonging to the genera *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Trichoderma*, *Neurospora*, *Mucor*, *Penicillium*, etc.; yeasts belonging to the genera *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Trichosporon*, *Schwanniomyces*, etc.; animal cells; and insect cells.

[0041] The expression vector used is one capable of autonomously replicating in the above host or capable of inte-

grating into the chromosome, containing a promoter at a site enabling transcription of the novel phytase gene.

[0042] If prokaryotes such as bacteria are used as the host, the expression vector for novel phytase is preferably one capable of autonomously replicating in the microorganism and comprising a promoter, a ribosome-binding sequence, the novel phytase gene, and a transcription termination sequence. The vector may also contain a gene for regulating the promoter.

[0043] Expression vectors include e.g. pKK233-2 (Pharmacia), pSE280 (Invitrogen), pGEMEX-1 (Promega), pQE-8 (Qiagen), pKYP10 (JP-A-110600/1983), pKYP200 [Agric. Biol. Chem., 48, 669 (1984)], pLSA1 [Agric. Biol. Chem., 53, 277 (1989)], pGEL1 [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA, 82, 4306 (1985)], pBluescript (Stratagene), pTrs30 [prepared from *Escherichia coli* JM109/pTrs30 (FERM BP-5407)], pTrs32 [prepared from *Escherichia coli* JM109/pTrs32 (FERM BP-5408)], pGHA2 [*E. coli* containing pGHA2 has been deposited as *Escherichia coli* IGHA2 (FERM BP-400) with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Japan; see JP-A-221091/1985], pGKA2 [*E. coli* containing pGKA2 has been deposited as *Escherichia coli* IGKA2 (FERM B-6798) with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, JP-A-221091/1985], pTerm2 (JP-A-22979/1991, USP 4686191, USP 4939094, USP 5160735), pGEX (Pharmacia), pET system (Novagen), and pSupex.

[0044] Any promoter can be used insofar as it can be expressed in a host such as *E. coli*. Examples thereof are promoters derived from *E. coli*, phage etc., such as *trp* promoter (P_{trp}), *lac* promoter (P_{lac}), P_L promoter and P_R promoter. Further, artificially modified promoters are usable, whose examples are a P_{trp}x2 promoter (having 2 P_{trp} promoters in series), *lac* promoter, T7 promoter, Plet1 promoter, etc.

[0045] The ribosome-binding sequence used is preferably a plasmid in which the distance between a Shine-Dalgarno sequence and an initiation codon is suitably regulated (e.g. distance of 6 to 18 bases).

[0046] Although any gene coding for the novel phytase can be used as the novel phytase gene, its nucleotides are preferably replaced such that the DNA sequence of the gene is composed of optimum codons for expression in host microorganisms.

[0047] Although a transcription termination sequence is not necessarily required for expression of the gene of the present invention, it is preferable to locate the transcription termination sequence at a site just downstream of the structural gene.

[0048] The host includes microorganisms belonging to the genera *Escherichia*, *Serratia*, *Corynebacterium*, *Brevibacterium*, *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, etc., for example, *Escherichia coli* XL1-Blue, *Escherichia coli* XL2-Blue, *Escherichia coli* DH1, *Escherichia coli* MC1000, *Escherichia coli* KY3276, *Escherichia coli* W1485, *Escherichia coli* JM109, *Escherichia coli* HB101, *Escherichia coli* No. 49, *Escherichia coli* W3110, *Escherichia coli* NY49, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Brevibacterium immariophilum* ATCC14068, *Brevibacterium saccharolyticum* ATCC14066, *Brevibacterium flavum* ATCC14067, *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* ATCC13869, *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC13032, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum* ATCC13870, and *Microbacterium ammoniaphilum* ATCC15354.

[0049] If filamentous fungi are used as the host, examples of expression vectors are p3SR2 [Gene, 26, 205-221 (1983)], pKBY2 [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82, 834-838 (1985)], pSal23 [Agric. Biol. Chem., 51, 2549-2555 (1987)], pSTA14 [Mol. Gen. Genet., 218, 99-104 (1989)], pDJB2 [Gene, 36, 321-331 (1989)], and pLeu4 [Biosci. Biotech. Biochem., 56, 1503-1504 (1992)].

[0050] Any promoter can be used insofar as it allows expression to induce in filamentous fungi as the host. Examples are a promoter induced strongly by starch or cellulose, e.g. a promoter for glucoamylase or α -amylase from the genus *Aspergillus* or cellulase (cellobiohydrazinase) from the genus *Trichoderma*, a promoter for enzymes in the glycolytic pathway, such as phosphoglycerate kinase (pgk) and glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (gpd), etc.

[0051] Although any gene coding for the novel phytase can be used as the novel phytase gene, a preferable example is a gene coding for a protein having an amino acid sequence to which a peptide having a secretory signal sequence at an N-terminal amino acid of the novel phytase has been linked to permit secretion of the novel phytase out of the microorganism cell. The peptide having a secretory signal sequence includes e.g. a peptide having a secretory signal sequence for glucoamylase or α -amylase from the genus *Aspergillus*, or a peptide having the 1-24 amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

[0052] The host includes *Aspergillus niger* SK57, *Aspergillus oryzae* M-2-3 [Agric. Biol. Chem., 51, 2549-2555 (1987)], *Aspergillus ficum* NRRL3135, *Aspergillus awamori* NRRL3112, *Aspergillus nidulans* IFO4340, *Trichoderma reesei* Rut-C-30 [Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol., 20, 46-53 (1984)], *Rhizopus niveus* M-37 [Biosci. Biotech. Biochem., 56, 1503-1504 (1992)], etc.

[0053] Transformation of filamentous fungi can be performed according to the method of Gomi et al. [Agric. Biol. Chem., 51, 2549 (1987)] or the like.

[0054] If yeasts are used as the host, expression vectors such as YEp 13 (ATCC37115), YEp 24 (ATCC37051) and YCp 50 (ATCC37419) can be enumerated.

[0055] Any promoter capable of expressing in yeast hosts can be used as the promoter. Examples thereof include promoters for genes of hexokinase and the like in the glycolytic pathway, and promoters such as gal 1 promoter, gal 10

promoter, heat shock protein promoter, MF α 1 promoter and CUP 1 promoter.

[0056] Examples of the host are *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Trichosporon pullulans*, *Schwanniomyces alluvius*, etc.

5 [0057] Introduction of the recombinant vector can be carried out by any method of introducing DNA into yeasts, such as electroporation method [Methods, Enzymol., 194, 182 (1990)], spheroplast method [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84, 1929 (1978)], lithium acetate method [J. Bacteriol., 153, 163 (1983)] and the like.

[0058] If animal cells are used as the host, expression vectors used are, e.g., pAGE107 [JP-A-22979/1991; Cytotechnology, 3, 133 (1990)], pAS3-3 [JP-A-227075/1990], pCDM8 [Nature, 329, 840 (1987)], pcDNA1/Amp (Invitrogen), pREP4 (Invitrogen), pAGE103 [J. Biochem., 101, 1307 (1987)], and pAGE210.

10 [0059] Any promoter which allows expression to induce in animal cells can be used. Examples thereof are a promoter for an IE (immediate early) gene in cytomegalovirus (human CMV), an SV40 early promoter, and a promoter for metallothionein. Also, an enhancer for the IE gene from human CMV may be used together with the promoter.

[0060] The host cells include Namalwa cell that is a human cell, COS cell that is a monkey cell, CHO cell that is a Chinese hamster cell, HBT5637 (JP-A-299/1988), etc.

15 [0061] Any method capable of introducing DNA into animal cells can be used: for example, electroporation method [Cytotechnology, 3, 133 (1990)], calcium phosphate method (JP-A-227075/1990), lipofection method [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84, 7413 (1987)], etc.

[0062] Preparation and culture of the transformant can be conducted according to the methods described in JP-A-227075/1990 or JP-A-257891/1990.

20 [0063] If an insect cell is used as the host, a gene for the protein of interest can be expressed by the methods described in e.g. Baculovirus Expression Vectors, A Laboratory Manual; Current Protocols in Molecular Biology Supplements 1-34; and Bio/Technology, 6, 47 (1988).

[0064] That is, the vector into which the recombinant gene has been introduced is introduced together with baculovirus into an insect cell so that a recombinant virus is obtained in the supernatant of the cultured insect cell. Then, insect

25 cells are infected with the recombinant virus whereby the protein can be expressed.

[0065] The gene-introducing vector used in this method includes e.g. pLV1392, pVL1393, and pBlueBacIII (which all are products of Invitrogen).

[0066] As the baculovirus, it is possible to employ e.g. Autographa californica nuclear polyhedrosis virus, which is a virus infecting certain moth insects.

30 [0067] As the insect cells, it is possible to employ ovary cells Sf9 and Sf21 from *Spodoptera frugiperda* [Baculovirus Expression Vectors, A Laboratory Manual, W. H. Freeman and Company, New York (1992)], High 5 (Invitrogen) which is an ovary cell from *Trichoplusia ni*, etc.

[0068] For co-introduction of both the vector having the recombinant gene and the baculovirus into an insect cell to prepare a recombinant virus, the calcium phosphate method (JP-A-227075/1990) or lipofection method [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84, 7413 (1987)] may be used.

35 [0069] Expression of the gene may be performed in a secretion manner or as expression of a fusion protein in accordance with the methods described in Molecular Cloning, 2nd ed., in addition to direct expression.

[0070] In the case of expression in filamentous fungi, yeasts, animal cells or insect cells, polypeptides having saccharide or carbohydrate chains can be obtained.

40 [0071] Besides the above-described transformants, a microorganism having the ability to produce the novel phytase or its mutants having more improved ability to produce the novel phytase can be used to produce the novel phytase.

[0072] The mutant having the improved productivity of the novel phytase can be obtained through usual mutagenesis.

[0073] For preparation of the novel phytase, the microorganism having the ability to produce the novel phytase, mutants derived from the microorganism, or transformants carrying the recombinant DNA having the novel phytase

45 gene integrated therein can be cultured by a conventional culture method to produce and accumulate the novel phytase, followed by recovering of the novel phytase from the culture. The microorganisms, mutants, and transformants used for producing the novel phytase are hereinafter referred to as novel phytase-producing organism.

[0074] If the novel phytase-producing organism is a prokaryote such as *E. coli* or a eukaryote such as filamentous

50 fungous or yeast, the medium for culturing these organisms may be natural or synthetic insofar as the medium contains a carbon source, a nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and so on, which can be assimilated by the organisms and in which the transformants can be efficiently cultured.

[0075] Any carbon source can be used insofar as it can be assimilated by the microorganisms: for example, hydrocarbons such as glucose, fructose, sucrose, molasses containing them, starch, and starch hydrolysates; organic acids such as acetic acid and propionic acid; and alcohols such as methanol, ethanol and propanol.

55 [0076] Used as the nitrogen source are: ammonia; ammonium salts of inorganic or organic acids, such as ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium acetate and ammonium phosphate; and other nitrogenous compounds; peptone; meat extract(broth); yeast extract; corn steep liquor; casein hydrolysates; soybean cake and hydrolysates thereof; and a variety of fermentation microorganisms and digested materials thereof.

[0077] The inorganic matter used include monopotassium phosphate, dipotassium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, sodium chloride, ferrous sulfate, manganese sulfate, copper sulfate, calcium carbonate, etc.

[0078] For culture of filamentous fungi, a medium with wheat bran, rice bran etc. as carbon, nitrogen and inorganic sources supplemented with suitable salts can also be used.

5 [0079] Culture is conducted under aerobic conditions using shake culture or submerged shake culture under aeration. The culture temperature is preferably 15 to 40 °C, and the culture time is usually 16 to 96 hours. During culture, pH is kept at 3.0 to 9.0, and in culture of filamentous fungi, pH is kept preferably at 3.0 to 6.5. pH is adjusted with an inorganic or organic acid, an alkaline solution, urea, calcium carbonate, ammonia or the like.

[0080] During culture, an antibiotic such as ampicillin or tetracycline may optionally be added to the medium.

10 [0081] If a microorganism transformed with an expression vector having an inducible promoter as the promoter is cultured, its inducer may optionally be added to the medium. For example, isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) or the like may be added to the medium for culture of a microorganism transformed with an expression vector having a *lac* promoter, and indoleacrylic acid (IAA) or the like may be added to the medium for culture of a microorganism transformed with an expression vector having a *trp* promoter.

15 [0082] If a filamentous fungus is cultured in a medium containing a solid component such as wheat bran, the filamentous fungus is inoculated and then well mixed with the solid component until they become uniform, after which the mixture is spread thinly on a number of aluminum or stainless steel trays, put in a cellar, and cultured under the control of temperature, humidity and aeration. More specifically, the fungus is subjected to stationary culture at 25 to 35 °C for 3 to 10 days under 100 % humidity in a culture chamber.

20 [0083] If the novel phytase-producing organism is an animal cell, the medium used for culturing the cell is a generally used medium such as RPMI1640 medium, Eagle's MEM medium, or a medium supplemented with fetal calf serum or the like to said medium.

[0084] Culture may be conducted in the presence of 5 % CO₂. The culture temperature is preferably 35 to 37 °C, and the culture time is usually 3 to 7 days.

25 [0085] During culture, an antibiotic such as kanamycin or penicillin may optionally be added to the medium.

[0086] The medium for culture of the transformant prepared from an insect host cell may be a normal medium such as TNM-FH medium (Pharmingen), Sf-900 II SFM medium (Gibco BRL), and ExCell 400 and ExCell 405 [both, JRH Biosciences].

[0087] The culture temperature is preferably 25 to 30 °C, and the culture time is usually 1 to 4 days.

30 [0088] During culture, an antibiotic such as gentamicin may optionally be added to the medium.

[0089] For isolation and purification of the novel phytase from a culture of the novel phytase-producing organism, the conventional isolation/purification of enzymes can be used.

[0090] For example, if the novel phytase is accumulated in a soluble form in cells of the novel phytase-producing organism, the cells are collected from the culture by centrifugation, then washed with an aqueous buffer and disrupted by ultrasonication using a French press, manntongaurin homogenizer, dynomill or the like, thereby giving a cell-free
35 extract. The supernatant is obtained by centrifuging the cell-free extract and then subjected to the conventional isolation/purification of enzymes: namely, solvent extraction, salting-out with ammonium sulfate, desalting precipitation with organic solvent, anion-exchange chromatography on resin such as diethylaminoethyl (DEAE)-Sephacrose or DIAION HPA-75 (Mitsubishi Corporation), anion-exchange chromatography on resin such as S-Sephacrose FF (Pharmacia),
40 hydrophobic chromatography on resin such as butyl Sepharose or phenyl Sepharose, gel filtration using molecular sieve, affinity chromatography, chromatofocusing, and electrophoresis such as isoelectric focusing, which means can be used singly or in combination, whereby a purified preparation can be obtained.

[0091] If the novel phytase is expressed in an insoluble form within cells, then, the cells are similarly recovered, disrupted and centrifuged to give a precipitated fraction from which the novel phytase is then recovered, and the insoluble
45 novel phytase is solubilized with a detergent for polypeptide. The resultant liquid is then diluted or dialyzed to the degree that the detergent is not contained or does not cause denaturation of the polypeptide, whereby the novel phytase is reconstituted in the normal conformation. And a purified preparation can be obtained by the isolation/purification as described above.

[0092] If the novel phytase is secreted out of cells, the culture is centrifuged to give a soluble fraction. If ingredients
50 in the medium contain a solid component such as wheat bran, the novel phytase can be extracted with warm water or the like and subjected to centrifugation to give a soluble fraction. From the soluble fraction, a purified preparation of the novel phytase can be obtained in the same way for isolation and purification from the cell-free extract as described above.

[0093] The activity of the novel phytase can be determined according to the standard assay method described below.

55 [0094] 0.5 ml of 0.2 M acetate buffer, pH 5.5 (sodium acetate) containing 2.5 mM sodium phytate (Sigma) is maintained at 37 °C for 5 minutes, and 0.5 ml of an enzyme solution is added to initiate the reaction. After maintained at 37 °C for 10 minutes, 2 ml of a stop solution of enzyme reaction (i.e., mixture of 1 : 1 : 2 10 mM ammonium molybdate, 5 N sulfuric acid and acetone) is added to stop the reaction, and 0.1 ml of 1 M citric acid is further added and mixed. The

absorbance of this solution is determined at 380 nm on a spectrophotometer (Hitachi U-2000). One unit of phytase activity is defined as the amount of enzyme allowing to release 1 μmol inorganic phosphorus for 1 minute at pH 5.5 at 37 °C.

[0095] The K_m value of the novel phytase can be determined by the Lineweaver-Burk plot in which the activity of the novel phytase, as determined by the standard assay, is plotted at varying concentrations of the substrate.

[0096] The novel phytase of the present invention can be utilized in various processes required for converting a salt of phytic acid into inositol and inorganic phosphoric acid.

[0097] For example, the present enzyme can be used in animal feeds, soybean processing, liquid feeds for pigs and poultry, and production of inositol or inositol monophosphate from salts of phytic acid.

[0098] An example of such animal feeds is as follows:

[0099] The novel phytase of the present invention is mixed with a carrier material such as wheat chaff and dried in a spray tower or a fluidized bed. After drying, an osmotic pressure stabilizer such as sorbitol, and a preservative, such as benzoic acid, are further added to give an animal feed. The amount of the novel phytase in the animal feed is 10 to 5000 U, preferably 100 to 1000 U per kg of the animal feed.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0100]

Fig. 1 shows a restriction enzyme map of a phytase gene derived from *Aspergillus niger* SK52, wherein the arrow indicates phytase-coding region.

Fig. 2 shows a restriction enzyme map of the plasmid pANPHY1, wherein "Phytase" indicates a novel phytase gene, "Amp" indicates an ampicillin-resistant gene from pUC118, and the arrow indicates the direction of transcription and translation of the gene.

Fig. 3 shows a profile of novel phytases in SDS-PAGE for molecular-weight measurement.

Fig. 4 shows a calibration curve obtained by measuring the molecular weight of novel phytase.

Fig. 5 shows optimum pH values for novel phytases. The activity at each pH value is exhibited as a relative activity (%) to the activity as 100 % which has been determined under pH conditions conferring a maximum activity.

Fig. 6 shows pH stability for novel phytases.

Fig. 7 shows optimum temperatures for novel phytases. The activity at each temperature is exhibited as a relative activity (%) to the activity as 100 % which has been determined under conditions of temperature conferring a maximum activity.

Fig. 8 shows heat stability for novel phytases. The activity at each temperature is exhibited as a relative activity (%) to the activity as 100 % at 4 °C.

Fig. 9 shows the isoelectric point of novel phytase in isoelectric focusing.

Best Modes for carrying out the invention

Example 1 Preparation of chromosomal DNA coding for novel phytase

1. Preparation of *Aspergillus niger* SK57:

[0101] One hundred ml of a malt extract medium (2 % malt extract, 2 % glucose, 0.1 % peptone) was put in a 500-ml Erlenmeyer flask with baffle, sealed with a silicon sponge stopper and sterilized at 120 °C for 20 minutes.

[0102] The strain SK57 was inoculated into the medium and cultured at 28 °C for 7 days under shaking.

[0103] The culture was filtered through a sterilized glass filter to yield 0.5 g of the strain SK57.

2. Isolation and purification of total DNA from the microorganism:

[0104] The strain SK57 obtained in Example 1-1 was placed between paper towels and pressed for dehydration. The microorganism was then put in a mortar cooled at -80 °C, frozen by pouring liquid nitrogen, and finely disrupted with a pestle cooled at -80 °C.

[0105] The finely disrupted microorganism was put in a centrifugation tube, and 0.2 ml of TE buffer [10mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA] was added thereto, and suspended. The microorganism was lysed by adding 0.2 ml of a lysis solution [2 % SDS, 0.1 M NaCl, 10 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.0)] to the suspension. The lysate was centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500 \times g) at 4 °C for 10 minutes, and the resulting supernatant was recovered in a new centrifugation tube.

[0106] Phenol solution (i.e., mixture of 25:24:1 phenol, chloroform and isoamyl alcohol) 0.4 ml was added to the

supernatant which was then gently stirred and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4°C for 10 minutes to recover the supernatant in a new centrifugation tube. This procedure was repeated 3 times and the supernatant was recovered in another tube.

[0107] Cold ethanol 1 ml was added to the supernatant, then cooled at -80 °C for 10 minutes and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4 °C for 10 minutes, thereby recovering a precipitate (DNA).

[0108] The precipitate was dried under vacuum and then dissolved in 0.5 ml of TE buffer.

[0109] Five µl of RNase A (10 mg/ml) was added to the solution and held at 37 °C for 30 minutes.

[0110] Phenol solution 0.5 ml was added to the above treated solution, and the mixture was gently stirred and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500 ×g) for 10 minutes to recover the supernatant in a new centrifugation tube. This procedure was repeated twice, and the supernatant was recovered in a new centrifugation tube.

[0111] Chloroform solution (i.e., mixture of 24:1 chloroform and isoamyl alcohol) 0.5 ml was added to the above supernatant which was then centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4°C for 10 minutes to recover a precipitate (DNA) in a new centrifugation tube.

[0112] Fifty µl of NaCl and 1 ml of cold ethanol were added to the supernatant which was then cooled at -80 °C for 10 minutes and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4 °C for 10 minutes, thereby recovering a precipitate (DNA). The precipitate was further washed with 0.5 ml of 70 % cold ethanol and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4 °C for 10 minutes to recover a precipitate (DNA). After drying of the precipitate under vacuum, about 5 µg of purified genomic DNA was obtained.

3. Preparation of a probe:

[0113] Cloning of phytase from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 was examined using a gene from *Aspergillus ficcum* NRRL3135 [available from Northern Regional Research Center, United State Department of Agriculture Peoria, Illinois U.S.A. (NRRL)] as a probe.

[0114] Total DNA from the strain NRRL3135 was prepared by the methods described in Examples 1-1 and 1-2.

[0115] To amplify a phytase structural gene from NRRL3135, sense and antisense primers shown in SEQ ID NOS:6 and 7, respectively, were synthesized on 380A DNA synthesizer (Applied Biosystems). The phytase structural gene was amplified by PCR using 100 µl of a mixture containing the sense primer, the antisense primer and the genomic DNA from NRRL3135. PCR was conducted through the reaction steps: 92 °C, 1 minute; 45 °C, 2 minutes; and 72 °C, 3 minutes per cycle; with 25 cycles in total.

[0116] After pUC118 was cleaved with the restriction enzyme *Eco* RI, a fragment of the PCR-amplified phytase structural gene which has been treated with *Eco* RI was inserted into the *Eco* RI cleavage site of pUC118 by use of the ligation kit (manufactured by Takara Shuzo, Japan).

[0117] The plasmid having the phytase structural gene fragment inserted therein was used to transform *E. coli* JM109 (Takara Shuzo).

[0118] The transformant *E. coli* was cultured at 37 °C for one day in LB medium (1 % trypton, 0.5 % yeast extract, 1 % sodium chloride) containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin Na.

[0119] The plasmid was extracted from the cell culture and then digested with *Eco* RI to recover a 1.7-kb DNA fragment.

[0120] This 1.7-kb DNA fragment was used as a probe.

4. Southern hybridization:

[0121] Twelve U of restriction enzyme *Xba* I (Takara Shuzo) was added to 20 µg of the genomic DNA from the strain SK57, followed by reaction at 37 °C for 12 hours to cleave the DNA. This DNA was subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis. Southern hybridization with the probe obtained in Example 1-3 was conducted using ECL kit (Amersham) according to instructions attached to the kit.

[0122] After agarose gel electrophoresis, the DNA was capillary-blotted onto a Hybond-N* membrane (Amersham) in 0.4 N sodium hydroxide solution, and the membrane was air-dried. The membrane was immersed at 42 °C for 1 hour in 10 ml hybridization buffer (containing 0.5 M NaCl and 5 % blocking reagent) of the ECL direct nucleic acid labeling and detection systems (Amersham), and 30 µl of a probe solution (which was prepared by adding 7 µl of sterilized water to 3 µl of the probe obtained in Example 1-3, keeping at 95 °C for 5 minutes, leaving on ice for 5 minutes, adding 10 µl of a labeling solution and 10 µl of glutaraldehyde solution, and keeping the resultant mixture at 37 °C for 10 minutes) was added to the hybridization buffer in which the blotting membrane has been immersed, followed by overnight shaking at 42 °C.

[0123] The membrane was washed with 100 ml of a primary washing solution [6 M urea, 0.4 % SDS, 0.5×SSC (1 ×SSC: 150 mM sodium chloride and 15 mM sodium citrate)] at 42 °C for 20 minutes. After washing, the membrane was washed with 100 ml of a secondary washing solution [0.4 % SDS, 0.5 ×SSC] at 55 °C for 10 minutes, and this washing

procedure was repeated. After washing, the membrane was washed with 100 ml of 2×SSC at room temperature for 5 minutes, and this washing procedure was conducted again.

[0124] The washed membrane was air-dried for 1 minute, immersed in 7 ml of a detection reagent for 1 minute, and rapidly wrapped in a Saran® wrap. The membrane was then set up into an X-ray film cassette and exposed to X-ray film (Fuji Film, Japan) at room temperature for 5 minutes.

[0125] A DNA fragment hybridizing strongly with the probe was detected at about 4.6 kb.

5. Preparation of chromosomal DNA library from *Aspergillus niger* SK57:

[0126] Restriction enzyme *Xba* I 12 U was added to 10 µg of the genomic DNA from the strain SK57, followed by reaction at 37 °C for 12 hours to cleave the DNA which was subsequently subjected to 0.8 % agarose gel electrophoresis. After electrophoresis, about 4.6-kb DNA fragment was excised from the gel, from which 100 ng of the around 4.6-kb DNA fragment was obtained using GeneClean® (BIO 101).

[0127] Separately, 12 U of *Xba* I was added to 200 ng of the *E. coli* vector pUC118 (Takara Shuzo) followed by reaction at 37 °C for 1 hour to cleave pUC118.

[0128] One U of alkaline phosphatase was added to the thus treated solution. After 30-min reaction at 37 °C, 20 µl of the phenol-treating solution was added to the reaction mixture, gently stirred, and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4°C for 10 minutes. The supernatant was then recovered in a new centrifugation tube. This procedure was repeated twice, and the supernatant was recovered in a new centrifugation tube.

[0129] Two µl of 3 M sodium acetate and 50 µl of cold ethanol were added to the supernatant which was then cooled at -80 °C for 10 minutes and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4°C for 10 minutes to recover a precipitate.

[0130] The precipitate was dried under vacuum and dissolved in 10 µl of TE buffer to obtain the cleaved fragment.

[0131] The about 4.6-kb DNA fragment prepared above was inserted into the cleavage site of the cleaved fragment by use of T4 ligase (Takara Shuzo), whereby the plasmid into which the chromosomal DNA fragment from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 has been introduced was yielded.

[0132] This plasmid was transformed into *E. coli* JM109 (Takara Shuzo) in a conventional manner.

[0133] The transformed *E. coli* was cultured at 37 °C for 1 day in LB medium containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin Na. To prepare a replica, the transformant was further cultured at 37 °C for 1 day in LB-agar medium (prepared by adding 2 % agar to LB medium) containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin Na. The colonies grown thereon were used as a chromosomal DNA library from SK57.

6. Isolation of colonies having DNA of interest from the chromosomal DNA library:

[0134] To isolate colonies having the novel phytase gene from the library prepared in Example 1-5, the colonies were transferred from the library to a membrane filter and subjected to colony hybridization with the probe obtained in Example 1-3 by use of the ECL kit (Amersham). Several thousand colonies were subjected to hybridization to isolate positive colonies.

7. Preparation of a restriction enzyme map and sequencing:

[0135] A plasmid was extracted in a usual manner from the positive colonies obtained in Example 1-6. This plasmid was named pANPHY1. Plasmid pANPHY1 was digested with various restriction enzymes and subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis, and a restriction enzyme map of an *Xba* I-treated insert derived from the SK57 chromosomal DNA was made based on the length of the fragments (Fig. 1). The insert had 4.6 kb in size.

[0136] Plasmid pANPHY1 was cleaved with various restriction enzymes, separated by agarose gel electrophoresis, and blotted onto a nylon membrane filter. Southern hybridization with the probe obtained in Example 1-3 was performed using the ECL kit. The site of hybridization with the probe was nearly in the middle of the insert. The restriction enzyme map of pANPHY1 and the coding region of novel phytase are shown in Fig. 2.

[0137] The whole nucleotide sequence of the novel phytase gene inserted into pANPHY1 was determined by the di-deoxy chain termination method. The nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

Example 2 Analysis of introns in DNA coding for novel phytase

[0138] Intron regions in the chromosomal DNA coding for novel phytase obtained in Example 1 were analyzed by obtaining phytase cDNA from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 in the following manner.

1. Culture of *Aspergillus niger* SK57:

[0139] The medium was based on Czapek-Dox, containing 0.05 % magnesium sulfate, 0.01 % ferrous sulfate, 0.05 % potassium chloride, 0.2 % sodium nitrate, 1 % glucose and 0.1 % corn steep liquor (Sanei Toka, Japan) in 50 mM MES buffer. It was aliquoted in 500-ml flasks with baffle in an amount of 100 ml per flask, followed by sterilization in an autoclave (120 °C, 20 minutes). After sterilization, the strain SK-5 was inoculated in an amount of a platinum loop from slants into the medium and cultured under shaking at 28 °C at 200 r.p.m. for 5 days, and then the microorganism was harvested on a glass filter under suction and rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen for inhibition of RNase activity. It was stored at - 80 °C until use.

2. Extraction of RNA:

[0140] One g of the frozen microorganism obtained in Example 1-1 was rapidly ground while pouring liquid nitrogen, and the resulting powder was added to 10 ml of the extraction liquid ISOGEN (Nippon Gene) at 50 °C and vigorously stirred for 30 seconds.

[0141] The solution was kept at 50 °C for 10 minutes and then aliquoted into Eppendorf tubes in an amount of 1 ml per tube.

[0142] Chloroform 200 µl was added to each aliquot, then shaken, and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. (18,500×g) at 4 °C for 15 minutes, and the aqueous phase of the upper layer was recovered.

[0143] 500 µl of 4 M lithium chloride was added to the aqueous phase, then mixed, left at -80 °C for 1 hour, and centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. at 4 °C for 15 minutes. The resulting precipitate was dissolved in 0.4 ml of RNase-free sterilized water (hereinafter abbreviated to RNase-free water).

[0144] Isopropyl alcohol 0.4 ml was added to the solution, and the mixture was left at 4 °C for 30 minutes and centrifuged again at 15,000 r.p.m. at 4 °C for 15.0 minutes to give a precipitate.

[0145] The precipitate was washed with 75 % ethanol, then suitably dried in a vacuum centrifuge and dissolved in 0.4 ml of RNase-free water.

[0146] One ml of ethanol was added to the solution which was then centrifuged to give a precipitate again.

[0147] The precipitate was washed with 75 % ethanol and dissolved in RNase-free water in a total volume of 0.4 ml. This was used as an RNA sample.

3. Amplification of phytase cDNA by RT-PCR:

[0148] The phytase cDNA was amplified using RT-PCR kit (Toyobo).

(1) Reverse transcription reaction

[0149] About 1 µg of the RNA sample obtained in Example 2-2 was put in an Eppendorf tube, and RNase-free water was added thereto to give 10 µl of the solution.

[0150] Four µl of 5×RTase buffer, 1 µl of random primer, 1 µl of RNase inhibitor and 2 µl of RTase, which were contained in the RT-PCR kit (Toyobo), were added to the above-prepared solution, followed by reactions at 30 °C for 10 minutes, at 42 °C for 20 minutes, at 99 °C for 5 minutes, and then at 4 °C for 5 minutes in PJ2000 thermal cycler (Perkin Elmer).

(2) PCR

[0151] Ten µl of Plus buffer, 68 µl of sterilized water, 0.5 µl of sense primer, 0.5 µl of antisense primer, and 1 µl of rTaq DNA polymerase, which were contained in the RT-PCR kit (Toyobo), were added to 20 µl of the reaction sample obtained in Example 2-1 to give 100 µl of the solution. The amplification of the cDNA for phytase was performed at 94 °C for 30 seconds, at 60 °C for 30 seconds, and then at 72 °C for 90 seconds per cycle, with 35 cycles in total.

[0152] After reaction, 10 µl of a mixture of chloroform and isoamyl alcohol (24 : 1) was added to the reaction mixture, stirred and then centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. for 5 minutes to recover the supernatant as a cDNA sample.

[0153] The cDNA sample was used for analysis of the cDNA and, as a result, one intron (positions 44 to 155) was found in the base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4. This sequence coded for the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2. From the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) of the purified novel phytase protein described below, it was found that the amino acids from the N-terminus to the position 24 were corresponding to a secretory signal peptide.

Example 3 Preparation of transformants expressing novel phytase

[0154] Transformants expressing novel phytase were obtained from *Aspergillus niger* SK57, *Aspergillus nidulans* MD-4 and *Aspergillus oryzae* M-23 as hosts.

5 [0155] The host strain (*Aspergillus niger* SK57, *Aspergillus nidulans* MD-4 or *Aspergillus oryzae* M-23) was cultured at 30 °C for 2 to 3 days in DPY medium (2 % dextrin, 1 % peptone, 0.5 % yeast extract, 0.5 % KH_2PO_4 , 0.05 % $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, pH5.5) under shaking. The grown microorganism was harvested using the 3G1 glass filter and washed with sterilized water.

10 [0156] The washed microorganism was added to 10 ml of protoplast-preparing solution [5 mg/ml Novozyme 234, 5 mg/ml cellulase R-10, 0.8 M NaCl, 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 6.0)] and gently shaken at 30°C for 3 hours. Hypha not lyzed were removed using the 3G3 glass filter, and the resulting filtrate was centrifuged at 700×g (2,000 r.p.m.) for 5 minutes to give protoplasts.

15 [0157] The protoplasts were washed twice with 0.8 M NaCl and once with solution I [0.8 M NaCl, 10 mM CaCl_2 , 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5)], and then suspended in 4/5 volumes of solution I at a final concentration of 2.5×10^8 protoplasts/ml. To the suspension was added 1/5 volumes of solution II [40 % (w/v) PEG 4000, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5)], thereby preparing a protoplast suspension for use in transformation.

[0158] In the case of the protoplast suspension derived from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 or *Aspergillus nidulans* MD-4, 20 μl plasmid pANPHY1, or 10 μl each of plasmids pANPHY 1 and p3SR2, were added to 0.2 ml of the protoplast suspension, and the mixture was left on ice for 30 minutes, and 1 ml of solution II was added thereto and left at room temperature for 20 minutes. Thereafter, 10 ml of solution I was added and centrifuged at 700×g for 5 minutes to give a precipitated fraction. The precipitated fraction was suspended in 0.2 ml of solution I. The resulting suspension was applied to a CD plate medium (1 % sucrose, 10 mM acetamide, 0.1 % KH_2PO_4 , 0.05 % $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.05 % KCl) containing 0.8 M NaCl, and a medium containing 0.5 % agar was layered thereon, followed by culture at 30 °C for 5 to 10 days.

25 [0159] In the case of the protoplast suspension derived from *Aspergillus oryzae* M-23, 10 μl of pANPHY1 and 10 μl of pSal23 were added to 0.2 ml of the protoplast suspension, and the mixture was left on ice for 30 minutes, and 1 ml of solution II was added thereto and left at room temperature for 20 minutes. Thereafter, 10 ml of solution I was added thereto, and the solution was centrifuged at 700×g for 5 minutes to give a precipitated fraction. The precipitated fraction was suspended in 0.2 ml of solution I. The suspension was applied to a minimum plate medium (1 % sucrose, 0.3 % NaNO_3 , 0.1 % KH_2PO_4 , 0.05 % $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.05 % KCl, pH 5.5), and a medium containing 0.5 % agar was layered thereon, followed by culture at 30 °C for 5 to 10 days.

30 [0160] During cultivation, well growing strains were selected as transformants, the phytase activity of each transformant was measured, and *Aspergillus niger* MH-PA1, *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1 and *Aspergillus oryzae* MO-PG3 with higher activity were obtained. *Aspergillus niger* MH-PA1 and *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1 were deposited respectively as FERM BP-5372 and FERM BP-5373 on January 25, 1996 with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, 1-3, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305 Japan.

Example 4 Production of phytases by transformants

40 (1) Production of phytase by *Aspergillus niger* MH-PA1

[0161] Ten g of wheat bran was introduced into a 500-ml Erlenmeyer flask, and the flask was sealed with a cotton stopper and sterilized at 120 °C for 20 minutes, and 8 ml of distilled water was added thereto. The strain MH-PA1 was inoculated into the medium, and the flask was shaken so that the MH-PA1 hypha were completely mixed with the wheat bran, and subjected to stationary culture at 30 °C for 4 to 5 days.

45 [0162] Water 100 ml at about 37 °C was put in the flask, and the flask was left at 37 °C for 1 to 2 hours. Thereafter, the liquid was separated from solids through a No. 2 filter paper, whereby 560 U of the novel phytase was obtained. Production of the novel phytase by MH-PA1 was about 2.4-fold higher than that by the strain SK57 shown in Example 6-1.

50 (2) Production of phytase by *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1

[0163] Ten ml of phytase production medium (1 % sucrose, 0.2 % NaNO_3 , 0.05 % $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.05 % KCl, 0.001 % $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.1 % C.S.L., pH 5.5) was put in a 100-ml Erlenmeyer flask, and the flask was sealed with a silicon stopper and sterilized at 120 °C for 20 minutes. The strain M-PA1 was inoculated into the medium and then cultured under shaking at 30 °C for 4 to 5 days.

55 [0164] The transformant M-PA1 produced 90 mU of phytase whose level was about 18-fold higher than 5 mU of phytase from *Aspergillus nidulans* MD-4 produced under the same conditions.

(3) Production of phytase by *Aspergillus oryzae* MO-PG3

[0165] Phytase production medium 500 ml was put in a 2-L Erlenmeyer flask which was then sealed with a cotton stopper and sterilized at 120 °C for 20 minutes. The strain MO-PG3 was inoculated into the medium and then subjected to shake culture at 28 °C for 4 to 5 days.

[0166] The transformant MO-PG3 produced 370 mU/ml phytase which was about 29-fold higher than 13 mU/ml phytase from *Aspergillus oryzae* M-23 produced under the same conditions.

Example 5 Preparation of mutant *Aspergillus niger* SK92 highly producing novel phytase from *Aspergillus niger* SK57

[0167] *Aspergillus niger* SK57 was grown on a minimum agar medium [2 % sucrose, 0.3 % sodium nitrate, 0.05 % potassium chloride, 0.05 % magnesium sulfate, 2 % agar, pH 5.5] to form spores. The spores were suspended in 10 ml of sterilized water. The suspension was prepared at a final concentration of 10^7 spores/ml in sterilized water, and 10 ml of the spore suspension was subjected to mutagenesis. The spore suspension was irradiated with UV-rays and γ -rays at 99 % lethal level, thereby inducing mutation. By this mutagenesis, one strain highly producing phytase was obtained. This strain was further subjected 7 times to mutagenesis whereby *Aspergillus niger* SK92 highly producing the novel phytase was obtained.

Example 6 Production of novel phytase by *Aspergillus niger* SK57 and *Aspergillus niger* SK92

(1) Production of novel phytase by the strains SK57 and SK92

[0168] Ten g of wheat bran was put in a 500-ml Erlenmeyer flask, and the flask was sealed with a cotton stopper and sterilized at 120 °C for 20 minutes, and 8 ml of distilled water was added thereto. The strains SK57 or SK92 was inoculated into the medium, and the flask was shaken so that the hypha were completely mixed with the wheat bran.

[0169] Water 100 ml at about 37 °C was put in the flask which was then left at 37 °C for 1 to 2 hours. Thereafter, the liquid was separated from solids through a No. 2 filter paper.

[0170] By this production, 230 U of the novel phytase was obtained from the SK57 and 1000 U of the novel phytase from the SK92.

[0171] Level of the novel phytase produced by SK92 was about 4.5-fold higher than that by SK57.

(2) Production of novel phytase by SK57

[0172] The strain SK57 previously grown in pure culture was inoculated into 7,500 kg of wheat bran steamed at 120 °C for 30 minutes, and the hypha and bran medium were mixed uniformly in a mixer.

[0173] The mixture was poured onto 1,500 aluminum trays (600×1,000 mm) in an amount of 5 kg/tray, and the SK57 was cultured for 5 days in a culture chamber at 30 °C under 100 % humidity.

[0174] The culture was transferred to an extraction bath and sprayed with 18-ton warm water. The phytase extract was then recovered into a 25-ton tank. The extract was transferred to a vacuum-concentration tank (Nippon Shinku K. K.) where it was concentrated 2 to 3-fold under vacuum, and 3.5 tons of 95 % cold ethanol was added. Impurities insolubilized by this operation were removed by a press filter.

[0175] The resulting filtrate was filtered through a germ-free filter (0.45 μ m, Nippon Rosuiki K. K.), and 17.5 tons of 95 % cold ethanol was added again thereto to insolubilize novel phytase. The insolubilized phytase was precipitated to give 3 tons of a precipitated fraction containing the novel phytase.

[0176] Eight tons of 95 % cold ethanol was added to the precipitated fraction, and after dehydration, the insolubilized phytase was precipitated whereby 3 tons of the precipitated fraction containing the novel phytase was obtained. The dehydration and precipitation procedures were repeated 2 or 3 times, and the precipitate was dried under vacuum to give 150 million U of crude phytase powder.

Example 7 Purification of the novel phytase(1) Purification of the novel phytase produced by *Aspergillus niger* SK57

[0177] Ten g of the crude phytase powder obtained in Example 6-2 was dissolved in 50 ml of acetate buffer A [50 mM acetic acid/50 mM sodium acetate (pH 5.5)] and then desalted through an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000; Sartorius). The resulting enzyme solution was applied to a DIAION HPA-75 (Mitsubishi Corporation) column (5.6 cm×30 cm) previously equilibrated with acetate buffer A. After washed with acetate buffer A, novel phytase was eluted with acetate buffer B [50 mM acetic acid/50 mM sodium acetate (pH 4.8)] containing 0.3 M NaCl. The eluate fraction was con-

centrated 20-fold through an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000; Advantec), and then applied to an S-Sepharose FT (2.5 cmx30 cm, Pharmacia) column previously equilibrated with acetate buffer C [50 mM acetic acid/50 mM sodium acetate (pH 4.9)]. After washed with acetate buffer C, the protein was eluted with acetate buffer D [50 mM acetic acid/50 mM sodium acetate (pH 5.2)] to yield a phytase fraction. The enzyme solution thus obtained was concentrated 20-fold with an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000; Advantec), and then applied to a Toyopearl HW-55F (Toso) column previously equilibrated with acetate buffer E [50 mM acetic acid/50 mM sodium acetate (pH 4.5)]. The novel phytase was eluted with acetate buffer E. The eluate fraction was applied to a mono-PHR 5/20 column (Pharmacia) previously equilibrated with 25 mM histidine-HCl buffer, pH 5.8 (Pharmacia), and the novel phytase was eluted with 10 % Poly-buffer 74-HCl, pH 4.2 (Pharmacia).

[0178] By these steps, the novel phytase was purified to a specific activity of 158 U/mg.

(2) Purification of novel phytase produced by Aspergillus niger MH-PA1 and Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1

[0179] According to the method described in Example 6-1, the strains MH-PA1 and M-PA1 were cultured, and from their respective cultures, liquid fractions (crude solutions of novel phytase) were obtained by passing through a filter paper No. 2.

[0180] Fifty mM acetate buffer A (pH 5.5) was added to each crude phytase solution which was then desalted through an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000, Advantec).

[0181] The desalted enzyme solution was applied to a DIAION HPA-75 column (5.6 cmx30 cm) previously equilibrated with 50 mM acetate buffer, pH 5.5. After washed with acetate buffer A, the novel phytase was eluted with acetate buffer B (pH 4.8) containing 0.3 M NaCl.

[0182] The eluate fraction was concentrated using an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000, Advantec) and then dialyzed. The resulting phytase fraction was applied to a Toyopearl HW-55F column (2.0 cmx60 cm) previously equilibrated with 50 mM acetate buffer E, pH 4.5, and the novel phytase was subsequently eluted with acetate buffer E.

[0183] By these steps, the novel phytase produced by Aspergillus niger MH-PA1 or Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1 was purified.

(3) Purification of novel phytase produced by Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3

[0184] The microorganism was removed by centrifugation from the culture obtained in Example 4-3, and the resulting supernatant was used as the crude enzyme solution.

[0185] Fifty mM acetate buffer A (pH 5.5) was added to the crude enzyme solution which was then desalted using an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000, Advantec).

[0186] The desalted enzyme solution was applied to a DIAION HPA-75 column (5.6 cmx30 cm) previously equilibrated with 50 mM acetate buffer A (pH 5.5). After washed with acetate buffer A, the novel phytase was eluted with acetate buffer B (pH 4.8) containing 0.3 M NaCl.

[0187] The eluate fraction was concentrated using an Ultrafilter (cut off molecular weight 10,000, Advantec) and then dialyzed. The resulting phytase fraction was applied to a Toyopearl HW-55F column (2.0 cmx60 cm) previously equilibrated with 50 mM acetate buffer E (pH 4.5), and the novel phytase was eluted with acetate buffer E.

[0188] By these steps, the novel phytase produced by Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3 was purified.

Example 8 Physicochemical properties of novel phytase

[0189] The physicochemical properties of the novel phytases obtained in in Examples 7-1 to 7-3 are as follows.

(1) Km value: The activity was determined according to the standard assay where the substrate concentration was varied in the range of 0.00625 to 1.25 mM. The results were graphed out in Lineweave-Burk plot so that Km values were determined.

The Km values of the novel phytases derived from Aspergillus niger SK57, Aspergillus niger MH-PA1, Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1 and Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3 were 13, 30, 20 and 28 μ M, respectively.

The Km value of the phytase derived from Aspergillus ficcum NRRL3135, as determined under the same conditions, was 197 μ M, so the Km values of the novel phytases of the present invention were one order of magnitude smaller than that of the known phytase.

(2) Molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): Ten ml of sample buffer (4 % 2-mercaptoethanol, 80 % glycerol, 4 % SDS, 40 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 6.8) was added to 40 ml of each novel phytase sample obtained in Examples 7-1 to 7-3, and the mixture was then boiled for 2 minutes and electrophoresed on 12.5% acrylamide gel using the AE-6200 type electrophoresis unit (Atoh). The protein was stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue G250. Further, each sample whose carbohydrate chains have been removed by treatment with endoglycosidase H was also electrophoresed in

the same manner.

A photograph showing the results of SDS-PAGE of the novel phytase from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 is shown in Fig. 3. The molecular weight of the novel phytase from the SK57 or MH-PA1 was about 60 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE. The molecular weight of these novel phytase was hardly changed even after removal of carbohydrate chains by treatment with endoglycosidase H. The molecular weight deduced from the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2 was about 50 kDa which was almost consistent with that determined by SDS-PAGE.

The molecular weight of novel phytases from *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1 and *Aspergillus oryzae* MO-PG3, as determined by SDS-PAGE, are shown in Fig. 4. In this measurement, the molecular weight of novel phytases from the 2 strains was about 90 to 100 kDa. Because these novel phytases after treated with endoglycosidase H had the same molecular weight (about 60 kDa) as that of the novel phytase from the strain SK57 or MH-PA1, it was found that the novel phytases from the M-PA1 and MO-PG3 contained carbohydrate chains.

(3) Optimum pH: The activity was measured by the standard assay wherein the pH was varied using 0.2 M buffers shown below:

pH 2 to 4: glycine/HCl buffer
pH 4 to 5.5: acetic acid/sodium acetate buffer
pH 5.5 to 7: MES buffer (Good Buffer)
pH 7 to 8: MOPS buffer (Good Buffer)
pH 8 to 9: Tris-HCl buffer

Results are shown in Fig. 5. The novel phytase of the present invention exhibited the maximum activity at pH 5.0 to 6.5. The enzyme had no activity at a pH of 7.0 or greater.

(4) pH stability: 2.1 mg/ml novel phytase solution was kept at 37 °C for 60 minutes in 100 mM buffer shown below, and its activity was measured by the standard assay.

pH 2 to 4: glycine/HCl buffer
pH 4 to 5.5: acetic acid/sodium acetate buffer
pH 5.5 to 7: MES buffer (Good Buffer)
pH 7 to 8: MOPS buffer (Good Buffer)
pH 8 to 9: Tris-HCl buffer

Results are shown in Fig. 6.

The novel phytases from *Aspergillus niger* strains SK57 and MH-PA1 had a residual activity of about 60 % or more at pH 4.5 to pH 7.5.

The novel phytases from *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1 and *Aspergillus oryzae* MO-PG3 had about 70 % or more at a pH of 8 or lower.

(5) Optimum temperature: The activity was determined at a reaction temperature of 0 to 70 °C by the standard assay.

Results are shown in Fig. 7. The novel phytases of the present invention exhibited the maximum activity at 40 to 65 °C.

(6) Temperature stability: A solution of the enzyme was maintained at the protein concentration of 2.1 mg/ml at 0 to 60 °C for 60 minutes in 100 mM acetic acid/sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.5), and its activity was determined by the standard assay.

Results are shown in Fig. 8.

The novel phytases from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 and *Aspergillus niger* MH-PA1 exhibited a relative activity of about 70 % or more at a temperature of 30 °C or lower.

The novel phytases from *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1 and *Aspergillus oryzae* MO-PG3 were stable up to 50 °C, but they were gradually inactivated at a temperature exceeding 50 °C. Because the novel phytases from *Aspergillus nidulans* M-PA1 and *Aspergillus oryzae* MO-PG3 had carbohydrate chains as shown in Example 8-1, they are thought to have higher heat stability than the novel phytases from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 and *Aspergillus niger* MH-PA1.

(7) Substrate specificity: The activity was determined by the standard assay method wherein the concentration of substrates was adjusted at 1 mM and 10 mM.

The results of the novel phytase from *Aspergillus niger* SK57 are shown in Table 1. The novel phytase acted with low specificity on the substrates shown in Table 1, but it had less activity on substrates other than phytic acid. The same results were obtained with respect to the novel phytases from other strains.

Table 1

Substrate	Concentration (mM)	Relative activity (100 %)
phytic acid	1	100
p-nitrophenyl phosphate	1	1.9
	10	10
D-glucose-6-phosphate	1	0.45
	10	4.2
fructose-6-phosphate	1	0.15
	10	0.93
D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-tris-phosphate	1	0.71
	10	5.8
glycerophosphoric acid	1	0.11
	10	0.96
ATP	1	1.6
	10	1.2

(8) Isoelectric focusing: Isoelectric focusing was performed on 3 % acrylamide gel (Ampholine pH 3.5-10.0, Pharmacia) using the AE-3230 model electrophoresis unit (Atoh).

[0190] The result of the novel phytase from Aspergillus niger SK57 is shown in Fig. 9. The isoelectric point (pI) of the phytase is in the range of 4.7 to 5.4.

Industrial application

[0191] According to the present invention, there can be provided an inexpensive phytase with a low Km value for phytic acid, DNA coding for the phytase, recombinant DNA having the DNA introduced therein, a microorganism carrying the recombinant DNA, and a process for preparing the phytase by use of the microorganism. This phytase can be used in feed in order to degrade phytic acid as an anti-trophic factor contained in the feed, thereby improving the nutritive value of the feed and achieving an efficient utilization of phosphoric acid released by the degradation.

SEQUENCE LISTING

5 SEQ ID NO: 1

LENGTH: 443

10 TYPE: amino acid

TOPOLOGY: linear

MOLECULE TYPE: protein

HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

15 SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1

Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys
 1 5 10 15
 Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser
 20 25 30
 Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His
 35 40 45
 Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr
 50 55 60
 Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Lys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln
 65 70 75 80
 Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn
 85 90 95
 Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Gln Glu Leu
 100 105 110
 Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg
 115 120 125
 Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala
 130 135 140
 Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp
 145 150 155 160
 Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile
 165 170 175
 Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr
 180 185 190
 Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr
 195 200 205
 Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser
 210 215 220
 Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys
 225 230 235 240
 Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro
 245 250 255
 Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu
 260 265 270
 Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly
 275 280 285
 Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr
 290 295 300
 His Ser Pro Val His Asp Thr Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser
 305 310 315 320
 Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser
 325 330 335
 His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn

5 Gly Thr Lys 340 Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr Thr 345 Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr 350
 Asp Gly 355 Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr 365
 Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val 380
 385 Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala 400
 10 Leu Gly Arg Cys 405 Thr Arg Asp Ser Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala 415
 Arg Ser Gly 420 Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu Cys Phe Ala 430
 435 440

15 SEQ ID NO: 2

LENGTH: 443

TYPE: amino acid

20 TOPOLOGY: linear

MOLECULE TYPE: protein

HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

25 SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2

Ser Xaa Xaa Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys
 1 5 10 15
 Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser
 20 25 30
 30 Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His
 35 40 45
 Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr
 50 55 60
 Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Lys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln
 65 70 75 80
 Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn
 85 90 95
 35 Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Gln Glu Leu
 100 105 110
 Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg
 115 120 125
 Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala
 130 135 140
 40 Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp
 145 150 155 160
 Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile
 165 170 175
 Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr
 180 185 190
 45 Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr
 195 200 205
 Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser
 210 215 220
 Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys
 225 230 235 240
 50 Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro
 245 250 255
 Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu
 260 265 270

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EP 0 955 362 A1

5 Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly
 275 280 285
 Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr
 290 295 300
 His Ser Pro Val His Asp Thr Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser
 305 310 315 320
 Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser
 325 330 335
 His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn
 340 345 350
 10 Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr
 355 360 365
 Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr
 370 375 380
 Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val
 385 390 395 400
 15 Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala
 405 410 415
 Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala
 420 425 430
 Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu Cys Phe Ala
 435 440

SEQ ID NO: 3

LENGTH: 467

TYPE: amino acid

TOPOLOGY: linear

MOLECULE TYPE: protein

HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3

35 Met Gly Val Ser Ala Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Tyr Leu Leu Ser Gly Val
 1 5 10 15
 Thr Ser Gly Leu Ala Val Pro Ala Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp
 20 25 30
 Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp
 35 40 45
 Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser
 50 55 60
 40 Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser
 65 70 75 80
 Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Lys Tyr Ser
 85 90 95
 Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys
 100 105 110
 Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu
 115 120 125
 45 Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Gln Glu Leu Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr
 130 135 140
 Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser
 145 150 155 160
 Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly
 165 170 175
 50 Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser
 180 185 190
 Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn

195 200 205
 Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala
 210 215 220
 Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg
 225 230 235 240
 Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu
 245 250 255
 Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser
 260 265 270
 Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu
 275 280 285
 Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly
 290 295 300
 His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala
 305 310 315 320
 Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr His Ser Pro Val His Asp Asp Thr
 325 330 335
 Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn
 340 345 350
 Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile
 355 360 365
 Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr
 370 375 380
 Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr
 385 390 395 400
 Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser
 405 410 415
 Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro
 420 425 430
 Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser
 435 440 445
 Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu
 450 455 460
 Cys Phe Ala
 465

SEQ ID NO: 4

LENGTH: 1332

TYPE: nucleic acid

STRANDEDNESS: single

TOPOLOGY: linear

MOLECULE TYPE: genomic DNA

SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4

TCG AGA AAT CAA TCC ACT TGC GAT ACG GTC GAT CAG GGG TAT CAA TGC 48
 Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys
 1 5 10 15
 TTC TCG GAG ACT TCG CAT CTT TGG GGC CAA TAC GCG CCG TTC TTT TCT 96
 Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser
 20 25 30
 CTG GCA AAC AAA TCG GCC ATC TCC CCT GAT GTT CCT GCC GGA TGC CAT 144
 Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His
 35 40 45
 GTC ACT TTC GCC CAG GTT CTC TCC CGC CAT GGA GCA CGG TAT CCG ACC 192
 Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr
 50 55 60

	GAC	TCC	AAG	GGC	AAG	AAA	TAC	TCC	GCT	CTC	ATC	GAG	GAG	ATC	CAG	CAG	240
	Asp	Ser	Lys	Gly	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Ala	Leu	Ile	Glu	Glu	Ile	Gln	Gln	
5	65	AAC	GCG	ACA	ACC	TTC	GAG	GGG	AAA	TAT	GCC	TTC	CTG	AAG	ACA	TAC	288
	Asn	Ala	Thr	Thr	Phe	Glu	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Leu	Lys	Thr	Tyr	Asn	
	85	TAC	AGC	CTG	GGC	GCG	GAT	GAT	CTG	ACT	CCC	TTC	GGA	GAG	CAG	GAG	336
	100	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ala	Asp	Asp	Leu	Thr	Pro	Phe	Gly	Glu	Gln	Glu	
10	115	GTC	AAC	TCC	GGC	GTC	AAG	TTC	TAC	CAG	CGA	TAC	GAA	TCG	CTC	ACA	384
	120	Val	Asn	Ser	Gly	Val	Lys	Phe	Tyr	Gln	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Thr	
	130	AAC	ATT	GTC	CCG	TTC	ATC	CGA	TCC	TCA	GGC	TCC	AGC	CGC	GTG	ATT	432
	135	Asn	Ile	Val	Pro	Phe	Ile	Arg	Ser	Ser	Gly	Ser	Ser	Arg	Val	Ile	
15	145	TCT	GGC	AAT	AAA	TTC	ATC	GAG	GGC	TTC	CAG	AGC	ACT	AAG	CTG	AAG	480
	150	Ser	Gly	Asn	Lys	Phe	Ile	Glu	Gly	Phe	Gln	Ser	Thr	Lys	Leu	Lys	
	160	CCT	CGT	GCC	CAG	CCC	GGC	CAA	TCG	TCG	CCC	AAG	ATC	GAC	GTG	GTC	528
	165	Pro	Arg	Ala	Gln	Pro	Gly	Gln	Ser	Ser	Pro	Lys	Ile	Asp	Val	Val	
20	170	TCA	GAG	GCC	AGC	ACA	TCC	AAC	AAC	ACT	CTC	GAT	CCG	GGC	ACC	TGC	576
	180	Ser	Glu	Ala	Ser	Thr	Ser	Asn	Asn	Thr	Leu	Asp	Pro	Gly	Thr	Cys	
	185	GTT	TTC	GAA	GAT	AGC	GAA	TTG	GCC	GAT	GAC	ATC	GAA	GCC	AAT	TTC	624
	190	Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Ser	Glu	Leu	Ala	Asp	Asp	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn	Phe	
	195	GCC	ACG	TTC	GTC	CCC	TCC	ATT	CGT	CAA	CGT	CTG	GAG	AAC	GAC	TTG	672
25	200	Ala	Thr	Phe	Val	Pro	Ser	Ile	Arg	Gln	Arg	Leu	Glu	Asn	Asp	Leu	
	205	GGC	GTG	TCT	CTC	ACG	GAC	ACA	GAA	GTG	ACC	TAC	CTC	ATG	GAC	ATG	720
	210	Gly	Val	Ser	Leu	Thr	Asp	Thr	Glu	Val	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Met	Asp	Met	
	215	225	TCC	TTC	GAC	ACC	ATC	TCC	ACC	AGC	ACC	GTC	GAC	ACC	AAG	CTG	768
	220	Ser	Phe	Asp	Thr	Ile	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Val	Asp	Thr	Lys	Leu	Ser	
30	225	TTC	TGT	GAC	CTG	TTC	ACC	CAT	GAA	GAA	TGG	ATC	AAC	TAC	GAC	TAC	816
	230	Phe	Cys	Asp	Leu	Phe	Thr	His	Glu	Glu	Trp	Ile	Asn	Tyr	Asp	Tyr	
	235	CAG	TCC	CTG	AAC	AAA	TAC	TAC	GGC	CAT	GGC	GCA	GGT	AAC	CCG	CTC	864
	240	Gln	Ser	Leu	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	His	Gly	Ala	Gly	Asn	Pro	Leu	
35	245	CCG	ACC	CAG	GGC	GTC	GGC	TAC	GCT	AAC	GAG	CTC	ATC	GCC	CGT	CTC	912
	250	Pro	Thr	Gln	Gly	Val	Gly	Tyr	Ala	Asn	Glu	Leu	Ile	Ala	Arg	Leu	
	255	CAC	TCG	CCT	GTC	CAC	GAT	GAC	ACC	AGC	TCC	AAC	CAC	ACA	TTG	GAC	960
	260	His	Ser	Pro	Val	His	Asp	Asp	Thr	Ser	Ser	Asn	His	Thr	Leu	Asp	
40	265	AAC	CCG	GCT	ACT	TTC	CCG	CTC	AAC	TCC	ACT	CTC	TAT	GCG	GAC	TTT	1008
	270	Asn	Pro	Ala	Thr	Phe	Pro	Leu	Asn	Ser	Thr	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Asp	Phe	
	275	CAT	GAT	AAC	GGC	ATC	TCT	ATC	CTC	TTT	GCT	TTG	GGT	CTG	TAC	TAC	1056
	280	His	Asp	Asn	Gly	Ile	Ile	Ser	Ile	Leu	Phe	Ala	Leu	Gly	Leu	Tyr	
45	285	GGC	ACC	AAG	CCG	CTG	TCT	TCC	ACG	ACC	GCG	GAG	AAT	ATC	ACC	CAG	1104
	290	Gly	Thr	Lys	Pro	Leu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ala	Glu	Asn	Ile	Thr	Gln	
	295	GAT	GGG	TTC	TCA	TCT	GCC	TGG	ACG	GTT	CCT	TTC	GCG	TCG	CGC	ATG	1152
	300	Asp	Gly	Phe	Ser	Ser	Ala	Trp	Thr	Val	Pro	Phe	Ala	Ser	Arg	Met	
50	305	GTC	GAG	ATG	ATG	CAA	TGC	CAG	TCC	GAG	CAG	GAG	CCT	TTG	GTC	CGT	1200
	310	Val	Glu	Met	Met	Gln	Cys	Gln	Ser	Glu	Gln	Glu	Pro	Leu	Val	Arg	
	315	TTG	GTT	AAT	GAT	CGT	GTT	GTT	CCG	CTG	CAT	GGC	TGT	CCG	GTT	GAT	1248
	320	Leu	Val	Asn	Asp	Arg	Val	Val	Pro	Leu	His	Gly	Cys	Pro	Val	Asp	

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TTG GGA AGA TGT ACG CGG GAT AGC TTC GTG AAG GGG TTG AGC TTT GCC 1296
 Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala
 AGA TCT GGC GGT GAT TGG GGG GAG TGT TTC GCT TAG 1332
 Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu Cys Phe Ala Ala

405 410 415
 420 425 430
 435 440

SEQ ID NO: 5

LENGTH: 1515

TYPE: nucleic acid

STRANDEDNESS: single

TOPOLOGY: linear

MOLECULE TYPE: genomic DNA

HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

ANTISENSE: Yes

POSITION IN GENOME:

UNITS: genome %

SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5

ATG GGT GTC TCT GCC GTT CTA CTT CCT TTG TAC CTC CTG TCC GG 44
 Met Gly Val Ser Ala Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Tyr Leu Leu Ser Gly
 GTATGCTAAT CATCCCTATC GGAGCCTGAT ATGGACCCTC CCCTTCCGAA GGCCCCCTGA 104
 AGCTTGGAAT GTGTGGGACT ATTGATCTGA TCGCTGACAA TCTGTGCACA GA GTC 159
 Val
 ACC TCC GGA CTG GCA GTC CCC GCC TCG AGA AAT CAA TCC ACT TGC GAT 207
 Thr Ser Gly Leu Ala Val Pro Ala Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp
 ACG GTC GAT CAG GGG TAT CAA TGC TTC TCG GAG ACT TCG CAT CTT TGG 255
 Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp
 GGC CAA TAC GCG CCG TTC TTT TCT CTG GCA AAC AAA TCG GCC ATC TCC 303
 Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser
 CCT GAT GTT CCT GCC GGA TGC CAT GTC ACT TTC GCC CAG GTT CTC TCC 351
 Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser
 CGC CAT GGA GCA CGG TAT CCG ACC GAC TCC AAG GGC AAG AAA TAC TCC 399
 Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Tyr Ser
 GCT CTC ATC GAG GAG ATC CAG CAG AAC GCG ACA ACC TTC GAG GGG AAA 447
 Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys
 TAT GCC TTC CTG AAG ACA TAC AAC TAC AGC CTG GGC GCG GAT GAT CTG 495
 Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu
 ACT CCC TTC GGA GAG CAG GAG CTG GTC AAC TCC GGC GTC AAG TTC TAC 543
 Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Glu Glu Leu Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr
 CAG CGA TAC GAA TCG CTC ACA AGA AAC ATT GTC CCG TTC ATC CGA TCC 591
 Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser

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TCA GGC TCC AGC CGC GTG ATT GCC TCT GGC AAT AAA TTC ATC GAG GGC 639
 Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly
 125 130 135
 TTC CAG AGC ACT AAG CTG AAG GAT CCT CGT GCC CAG CCC GGC CAA TCG 687
 Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser
 140 145 150
 TCG CCC AAG ATC GAC GTG GTC ATT TCA GAG GCC AGC ACA TCC AAC AAC 735
 Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn
 155 160 165
 ACT CTC GAT CCG GGC ACC TGC ACC GTT TTC GAA GAT AGC GAA TTG GCC 783
 Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala
 170 175 180
 GAT GAC ATC GAA GCC AAT TTC ACC GCC ACG TTC GTC CCC TCC ATT CGT 831
 Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg
 185 190 195 200
 CAA CGT CTG GAG AAC GAC TTG TCT GGC GTG TCT CTC ACG GAC ACA GAA 879
 Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu
 205 210 215
 GTG ACC TAC CTC ATG GAC ATG TGC TCC TTC GAC ACC ATC TCC ACC AGC 927
 Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser
 220 225 230
 ACC GTC GAC ACC AAG CTG TCC CCC TTC TGT GAC CTG TTC ACC CAT GAA 975
 Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu
 235 240 245
 GAA TGG ATC AAC TAC GAC TAC CTC CAG TCC CTG AAC AAA TAC TAC GGC 1023
 Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly
 250 255 260 265
 CAT GGC GCA GGT AAC CCG CTC GGC CCG ACC CAG GGC GTC GGC TAC GCT 1071
 His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala
 270 275 280 285
 AAC GAG CTC ATC GCC CGT CTC ACC CAC TCG CCT GTC CAC GAT GAC ACC 1119
 Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr His Ser Pro Val His Asp Asp Thr
 290 295 300 305
 AGC TCC AAC CAC ACA TTG GAC TCC AAC CCG GCT ACT TTC CCG CTC AAC 1167
 Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn
 310 315 320 325
 TCC ACT CTC TAT GCG GAC TTT TCG CAT GAT AAC GGC ATC ATC TCT ATC 1215
 Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile
 330 335 340 345
 CTC TTT GCT TTG GGT CTG TAC AAC GGC ACC AAG CCG CTG TCT TCC ACG 1263
 Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr
 350 355 360 365
 ACC GCG GAG AAT ATC ACC CAG ACC GAT GGG TTC TCA TCT GCC TGG ACG 1311
 Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr
 370 375 380 385
 GTT CCT TTC GCG TCG CGC ATG TAC GTC GAG ATG ATG CAA TGC CAG TCC 1359
 Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser
 390 395 400 405
 GAG CAG GAG CCT TTG GTC CGT GTC TTG GTT AAT GAT CGT GTT GTT CCG 1407
 Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro
 410 415 420 425
 CTG CAT GGC TGT CCG GTT GAT GCT TTG GGA AGA TGT ACG CGG GAT AGC 1455
 Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser
 430 435 440 445
 TTC GTG AAG GGG TTG AGC TTT GCC AGA TCT GGC GGT GAT TGG GGG GAG 1503
 Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu
 450 455 460 465
 TGT TTC GCT TAG 1515
 Cys Phe Ala
 470 475 480 485
 443

SEQ ID NO: 6

LENGTH: 32

5 TYPE: nucleic acid

STRANDEDNESS: single

TOPOLOGY: linear

10 MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid, synthetic DNA

SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6

15 GGAATTCAT GGGCGTCTCT GCTGTTCTAC TT 32

20 SEQ ID NO: 7

LENGTH: 32

TYPE: nucleic acid

25 STRANDEDNESS: single

TOPOLOGY: linear

30 MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid, synthetic DNA

SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7

35 GGAATTCCT AAGCAAAACA CTCCGCCCAA TC 32

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SEQUENCE LISTING

5 (1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

(A) NAME: Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co., Ltd.
 (B) STREET: 6-1, Otemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku
 (C) CITY: Tokyo
 (E) COUNTRY: JP
 (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): 100

10 (i) APPLICANT:

(A) NAME: Shin Nihon Chemical Co., Ltd.
 (B) STREET: 19-10, Showa-cho, Anjo-shi
 (C) CITY: Aichi
 (E) COUNTRY: JP
 (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): 446

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: NOVEL PHYTASE AND GENE ENCODING SAID PHYTASE

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 7

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PS-DOS/MS-DOS
 (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25 (EPO)

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 97 91 4613.1
 (B) FILING DATE: 04-APR-1997

(vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: JP 8/84314
 (B) FILING DATE: 05-APR-1996

35 (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/JP97/01175
 (B) FILING DATE: 04-APR-1997

40 (1) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 443 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys
 1 5 10 15
 Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser
 20 25 30
 Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His
 35 40 45

Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr
50 55 60
Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Lys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln
65 70 75 80
Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn
85 90 95
Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Gln Glu Leu
100 105 110
Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg
115 120 125
Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala
130 135 140
Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp
145 150 155 160
Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile
165 170 175
Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr
180 185 190
Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr
195 200 205
Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser
210 215 220
Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys
225 230 235 240
Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro
245 250 255
Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu
260 265 270
Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly
275 280 285
Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr
290 295 300
His Ser Pro Val His Asp Asp Thr Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser
305 310 315 320
Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser
325 330 335
His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn
340 345 350
Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr
355 360 365
Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr
370 375 380
Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val
385 390 395 400
Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala
405 410 415
Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala
420 425 430
Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu Cys Phe Ala
435 440

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 443 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Ser Xaa Xaa Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys
1 5 10 15

Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser
 20 25 30
 Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His
 35 40 45
 Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr
 50 55 60
 Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Lys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln
 65 70 75 80
 Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn
 85 90 95
 Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Gln Glu Leu
 100 105 110
 Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg
 115 120 125
 Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala
 130 135 140
 Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp
 145 150 155 160
 Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile
 165 170 175
 Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr
 180 185 190
 Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr
 195 200 205
 Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser
 210 215 220
 Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys
 225 230 235 240
 Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro
 245 250 255
 Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu
 260 265 270
 Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly
 275 280 285
 Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr
 290 295 300
 His Ser Pro Val His Asp Asp Thr Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser
 305 310 315 320
 Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser
 325 330 335
 His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn
 340 345 350
 Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr
 355 360 365
 Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr
 370 375 380
 Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val
 385 390 395 400
 Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala
 405 410 415
 Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala
 420 425 430
 Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu Cys Phe Ala
 435 440

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 467 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION:SEQ ID NO:3:

1 Met Gly Val Ser Ala Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Tyr Leu Leu Ser Gly Val
 5 Thr Ser Gly Leu Ala Val Pro Ala Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp
 Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp
 Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser
 10 Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser
 Arg His Gly Ala Arg Tyr Pro Thr Asp Ser Lys Gly Lys Lys Tyr Ser
 Ala Leu Ile Glu Glu Ile Gln Gln Asn Ala Thr Thr Phe Glu Gly Lys
 15 Tyr Ala Phe Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asn Tyr Ser Leu Gly Ala Asp Asp Leu
 Thr Pro Phe Gly Glu Gln Glu Leu Val Asn Ser Gly Val Lys Phe Tyr
 Gln Arg Tyr Glu Ser Leu Thr Arg Asn Ile Val Pro Phe Ile Arg Ser
 20 Ser Gly Ser Ser Arg Val Ile Ala Ser Gly Asn Lys Phe Ile Glu Gly
 Phe Gln Ser Thr Lys Leu Lys Asp Pro Arg Ala Gln Pro Gly Gln Ser
 Ser Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Val Ile Ser Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Asn
 25 Thr Leu Asp Pro Gly Thr Cys Thr Val Phe Glu Asp Ser Glu Leu Ala
 Asp Asp Ile Glu Ala Asn Phe Thr Ala Thr Phe Val Pro Ser Ile Arg
 Gln Arg Leu Glu Asn Asp Leu Ser Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Asp Thr Glu
 30 Val Thr Tyr Leu Met Asp Met Cys Ser Phe Asp Thr Ile Ser Thr Ser
 Thr Val Asp Thr Lys Leu Ser Pro Phe Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr His Glu
 Glu Trp Ile Asn Tyr Asp Tyr Leu Gln Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Gly
 35 His Gly Ala Gly Asn Pro Leu Gly Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala
 Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr His Ser Pro Val His Asp Asp Thr
 Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn
 40 Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile
 Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr
 Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr
 45 Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser
 Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro
 Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser
 50 Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu
 Cys Phe Ala
 465

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1332
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: genomic DNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

TCG	AGA	AAT	CAA	TCC	ACT	TGC	GAT	ACG	GTC	GAT	CAG	GGG	TAT	CAA	TGC	48
Ser	Arg	Asn	Gln	Ser	Thr	Cys	Asp	Thr	Val	Asp	Gln	Gly	Tyr	Gln	Cys	
1				5					10					15		
TTC	TCG	GAG	ACT	TCG	CAT	CTT	TGG	GGC	CAA	TAC	GCG	CCG	TTC	TTT	TCT	96
Phe	Ser	Glu	Thr	Ser	His	Leu	Trp	Gly	Gln	Tyr	Ala	Pro	Phe	Phe	Ser	
			20					25					30			
CTG	GCA	AAC	AAA	TCG	GCC	ATC	TCC	CCT	GAT	GTT	CCT	GCC	GGA	TGC	CAT	144
Leu	Ala	Asn	Lys	Ser	Ala	Ile	Ser	Pro	Asp	Val	Pro	Ala	Gly	Cys	His	
			35				40					45				
GTC	ACT	TTC	GCC	CAG	GTT	CTC	TCC	CGC	CAT	GGA	GCA	CGG	TAT	CCG	ACC	192
Val	Thr	Phe	Ala	Gln	Val	Leu	Ser	Arg	His	Gly	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Pro	Thr	
			50				55					60				
GAC	TCC	AAG	GGC	AAG	AAA	TAC	TCC	GCT	CTC	ATC	GAG	GAG	ATC	CAG	CAG	240
Asp	Ser	Lys	Gly	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Ala	Leu	Ile	Glu	Glu	Ile	Gln	Gln	
			65			70				75				80		
AAC	GCG	ACA	ACC	TTC	GAG	GGG	AAA	TAT	GCC	TTC	CTG	AAG	ACA	TAC	AAC	288
Asn	Ala	Thr	Thr	Phe	Glu	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Leu	Lys	Thr	Tyr	Asn	
			85					90						95		
TAC	AGC	CTG	GGC	GCG	GAT	GAT	CTG	ACT	CCC	TTC	GGA	GAG	CAG	GAG	CTG	336
Tyr	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ala	Asp	Asp	Leu	Thr	Pro	Phe	Gly	Glu	Gln	Glu	Leu	
			100					105						110		
GTC	AAC	TCC	GGC	GTC	AAG	TTC	TAC	CAG	CGA	TAC	GAA	TCG	CTC	ACA	AGA	384
Val	Asn	Ser	Gly	Val	Lys	Phe	Tyr	Gln	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Thr	Arg	
			115				120						125			
AAC	ATT	GTC	CCG	TTC	ATC	CGA	TCC	TCA	GGC	TCC	AGC	CGC	GTG	ATT	GCC	432
Asn	Ile	Val	Pro	Phe	Ile	Arg	Ser	Ser	Gly	Ser	Ser	Arg	Val	Ile	Ala	
			130				135						140			
TCT	GGC	AAT	AAA	TTC	ATC	GAG	GGC	TTC	CAG	AGC	ACT	AAG	CTG	AAG	GAT	480
Ser	Gly	Asn	Lys	Phe	Ile	Glu	Gly	Phe	Gln	Ser	Thr	Lys	Leu	Lys	Asp	
			145			150				155				160		
CCT	CGT	GCC	CAG	CCC	GGC	CAA	TCG	TCG	CCC	AAG	ATC	GAC	GTG	GTC	ATT	528
Pro	Arg	Ala	Gln	Pro	Gly	Gln	Ser	Ser	Pro	Lys	Ile	Asp	Val	Val	Ile	
			165					170						175		
TCA	GAG	GCC	AGC	ACA	TCC	AAC	AAC	ACT	CTC	GAT	CCG	GGC	ACC	TGC	ACC	576
Ser	Glu	Ala	Ser	Thr	Ser	Asn	Asn	Thr	Leu	Asp	Pro	Gly	Thr	Cys	Thr	
			180					185						190		
GTT	TTC	GAA	GAT	AGC	GAA	TTG	GCC	GAT	GAC	ATC	GAA	GCC	AAT	TTC	ACC	624
Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Ser	Glu	Leu	Ala	Asp	Asp	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn	Phe	Thr	
			195				200							205		
GCC	ACG	TTC	GTC	CCC	TCC	ATT	CGT	CAA	CGT	CTG	GAG	AAC	GAC	TTG	TCT	672
Ala	Thr	Phe	Val	Pro	Ser	Ile	Arg	Gln	Arg	Leu	Glu	Asn	Asp	Leu	Ser	
			210				215							220		
GGC	GTG	TCT	CTC	ACG	GAC	ACA	GAA	GTG	ACC	TAC	CTC	ATG	GAC	ATG	TGC	720
Gly	Val	Ser	Leu	Thr	Asp	Thr	Glu	Val	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Met	Asp	Met	Cys	
			225			230				235				240		
TCC	TTC	GAC	ACC	ATC	TCC	ACC	AGC	ACC	GTC	GAC	ACC	AAG	CTG	TCC	CCC	768
Ser	Phe	Asp	Thr	Ile	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Val	Asp	Thr	Lys	Leu	Ser	Pro	
			245					250						255		
TTC	TGT	GAC	CTG	TTC	ACC	CAT	GAA	GAA	TGG	ATC	AAC	TAC	GAC	TAC	CTC	816
Phe	Cys	Asp	Leu	Phe	Thr	His	Glu	Glu	Trp	Ile	Asn	Tyr	Asp	Tyr	Leu	
			260				265							270		
CAG	TCC	CTG	AAC	AAA	TAC	TAC	GGC	CAT	GGC	GCA	GGT	AAC	CCG	CTC	GGC	864
Gln	Ser	Leu	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	His	Gly	Ala	Gly	Asn	Pro	Leu	Gly	
			275				280							285		

CCG ACC CAG GGC GTC GGC TAC GCT AAC GAG CTC ATC GCC CGT CTC ACC 912
 Pro Thr Gln Gly Val Gly Tyr Ala Asn Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Leu Thr
 290 295 300
 CAC TCG CCT GTC CAC GAT GAC ACC AGC TCC AAC CAC ACA TTG GAC TCC 960
 His Ser Pro Val His Asp Asp Thr Ser Ser Asn His Thr Leu Asp Ser
 305 310 315 320
 AAC CCG GCT ACT TTC CCG CTC AAC TCC ACT CTC TAT GCG GAC TTT TCG 1008
 Asn Pro Ala Thr Phe Pro Leu Asn Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Phe Ser
 325 330 335
 CAT GAT AAC GGC ATC ATC TCT ATC CTC TTT GCT TTG GGT CTG TAC AAC 1056
 His Asp Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Ile Leu Phe Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Asn
 340 345 350
 GGC ACC AAG CCG CTG TCT TCC ACG ACC GCG GAG AAT ATC ACC CAG ACC 1104
 Gly Thr Lys Pro Leu Ser Ser Thr Thr Ala Glu Asn Ile Thr Gln Thr
 355 360 365
 GAT GGG TTC TCA TCT GCC TGG ACG GTT CCT TTC GCG TCG CGC ATG TAC 1152
 Asp Gly Phe Ser Ser Ala Trp Thr Val Pro Phe Ala Ser Arg Met Tyr
 370 375 380
 GTC GAG ATG ATG CAA TGC CAG TCC GAG CAG GAG CCT TTG GTC CGT GTC 1200
 Val Glu Met Met Gln Cys Gln Ser Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val
 385 390 395 400
 TTG GTT AAT GAT CGT GTT GTT CCG CTG CAT GGC TGT CCG GTT GAT GCT 1248
 Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala
 405 410 415
 TTG GGA AGA TGT ACG CCG GAT AGC TTC GTG AAG GGG TTG AGC TTT GCC 1296
 Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala
 420 425 430
 AGA TCT GGC GGT GAT TGG GGG GAG TGT TTC GCT TAG 1332
 Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu Cys Phe Ala Ala
 435 440

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1515
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: genomic DNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: Yes

(iv) ANTISENSE: Yes

(viii) POSITION IN GENOME:

(C) UNITS: genome %

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

ATG GGT GTC TCT GCC GTT CTA CTT CCT TTG TAC CTC CTG TCC GG 44
 Met Gly Val Ser Ala Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Tyr Leu Leu Ser Gly
 -20 -15 -10
 GTATGCTAAT CATCCCTATC GGAGCCTGAT ATGGACCCTC CCCTTCCGAA GGCCCCCTGA 104
 AGCTTGGACT GTGTGGGACT ATTGATCTGA TCGCTGACAA TCTGTGCACA GA GTC 159
 Val
 ACC TCC GGA CTG GCA GTC CCC GCC TCG AGA AAT CAA TCC ACT TGC GAT 207
 Thr Ser Gly Leu Ala Val Pro Ala Ser Arg Asn Gln Ser Thr Cys Asp
 -5 1 5
 ACG GTC GAT CAG GGG TAT CAA TGC TTC TCG GAG ACT TCG CAT CTT TGG 255
 Thr Val Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gln Cys Phe Ser Glu Thr Ser His Leu Trp
 10 15 20
 GGC CAA TAC GCG CCG TTC TTT TCT CTG GCA AAC AAA TCG GCC ATC TCC 303
 Gly Gln Tyr Ala Pro Phe Phe Ser Leu Ala Asn Lys Ser Ala Ile Ser
 25 30 35 40
 CCT GAT GTT CCT GCC GGA TGC CAT GTC ACT TTC GCC CAG GTT CTC TCC 351
 Pro Asp Val Pro Ala Gly Cys His Val Thr Phe Ala Gln Val Leu Ser
 45 50 55

	CGC	CAT	GGA	GCA	CGG	TAT	CCG	ACC	GAC	TCC	AAG	GGC	AAG	AAA	TAC	TCC	399
	Arg	His	Gly	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Pro	Thr	Asp	Ser	Lys	Gly	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ser	
5	GCT	CTC	ATC	GAG	GAG	ATC	CAG	CAG	AAC	GCG	ACA	ACC	TTC	GAG	GGG	AAA	447
	Ala	Leu	Ile	Glu	Glu	Ile	Gln	Gln	Asn	Ala	Thr	Thr	Phe	Glu	Gly	Lys	
	TAT	GCC	TTC	CTG	AAG	ACA	TAC	AAC	TAC	AGC	CTG	GGC	GCG	GAT	GAT	CTG	495
	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Leu	Lys	Thr	Tyr	Asn	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ala	Asp	Asp	Leu	
10	ACT	CCC	TTC	GGA	GAG	CAG	GAG	CTG	GTC	AAC	TCC	GGC	GTC	AAG	TTC	TAC	543
	Thr	Pro	Phe	Gly	Glu	Gln	Glu	Leu	Val	Asn	Ser	Gly	Val	Lys	Phe	Tyr	
	CAG	CGA	TAC	GAA	TCG	CTC	ACA	AGA	AAC	ATT	GTC	CCG	TTC	ATC	CGA	TCC	591
	Gln	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Thr	Arg	Asn	Ile	Val	Pro	Phe	Ile	Arg	Ser	
15	TCA	GGC	TCC	AGC	CGC	GTG	ATT	GCC	TCT	GGC	AAT	AAA	TTC	ATC	GAG	GGC	639
	Ser	Gly	Ser	Ser	Arg	Val	Ile	Ala	Ser	Gly	Asn	Lys	Phe	Ile	Glu	Gly	
	TTC	CAG	AGC	ACT	AAG	CTG	AAG	GAT	CCT	CGT	GCC	CAG	CCC	GGC	CAA	TCG	687
	Phe	Gln	Ser	Thr	Lys	Leu	Lys	Asp	Pro	Arg	Ala	Gln	Pro	Gly	Gln	Ser	
20	TCG	CCC	AAG	ATC	GAC	GTG	GTC	ATT	TCA	GAG	GCC	AGC	ACA	TCC	AAC	AAC	735
	Ser	Pro	Lys	Ile	Asp	Val	Val	Ile	Ser	Glu	Ala	Ser	Thr	Ser	Asn	Asn	
	ACT	CTC	GAT	CCG	GGC	ACC	TGC	ACC	GTT	TTC	GAA	GAT	AGC	GAA	TTG	GCC	783
	Thr	Leu	Asp	Pro	Gly	Thr	Cys	Thr	Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Ser	Glu	Leu	Ala	
25	GAT	GAC	ATC	GAA	GCC	AAT	TTC	ACC	GCC	ACG	TTC	GTC	CCC	TCC	ATT	CGT	831
	Asp	Asp	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn	Phe	Thr	Ala	Thr	Phe	Val	Pro	Ser	Ile	Arg	
	CAA	CGT	CTG	GAG	AAC	GAC	TTG	TCT	GGC	GTG	TCT	CTC	ACG	GAC	ACA	GAA	879
	Gln	Arg	Leu	Glu	Asn	Asp	Leu	Ser	Gly	Val	Ser	Leu	Thr	Asp	Thr	Glu	
30	GTG	ACC	TAC	CTC	ATG	GAC	ATG	TGC	TCC	TTC	GAC	ACC	ATC	TCC	ACC	AGC	927
	Val	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Met	Asp	Met	Cys	Ser	Phe	Asp	Thr	Ile	Ser	Thr	Ser	
	ACC	GTC	GAC	ACC	AAG	CTG	TCC	CCC	TTC	TGT	GAC	CTG	TTC	ACC	CAT	GAA	975
	Thr	Val	Asp	Thr	Lys	Leu	Ser	Pro	Phe	Cys	Asp	Leu	Phe	Thr	His	Glu	
35	GAA	TGG	ATC	AAC	TAC	GAC	TAC	CTC	CAG	TCC	CTG	AAC	AAA	TAC	TAC	GGC	1023
	Glu	Trp	Ile	Asn	Tyr	Asp	Tyr	Leu	Gln	Ser	Leu	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	
	CAT	GGC	GCA	GGT	AAC	CCG	CTC	GGC	CCG	ACC	CAG	GGC	GTC	GGC	TAC	GCT	1071
	His	Gly	Ala	Gly	Asn	Pro	Leu	Gly	Pro	Thr	Gln	Gly	Val	Gly	Tyr	Ala	
40	AAC	GAG	CTC	ATC	GCC	CGT	CTC	ACC	CAC	TCG	CCT	GTC	CAC	GAT	GAC	ACC	1119
	Asn	Glu	Leu	Ile	Ala	Arg	Leu	Thr	His	Ser	Pro	Val	His	Asp	Asp	Thr	
	AGC	TCC	AAC	CAC	ACA	TTG	GAC	TCC	AAC	CCG	GCT	ACT	TTC	CCG	CTC	AAC	1167
	Ser	Ser	Asn	His	Thr	Leu	Asp	Ser	Asn	Pro	Ala	Thr	Phe	Pro	Leu	Asn	
45	TCC	ACT	CTC	TAT	GCG	GAC	TTT	TCG	CAT	GAT	AAC	GGC	ATC	ATC	TCT	ATC	1215
	Ser	Thr	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Asp	Phe	Ser	His	Asp	Asn	Gly	Ile	Ile	Ser	Ile	
	CTC	TTT	GCT	TTG	GGT	CTG	TAC	AAC	GGC	ACC	AAG	CCG	CTG	TCT	TCC	ACG	1263
	Leu	Phe	Ala	Leu	Gly	Leu	Tyr	Asn	Gly	Thr	Lys	Pro	Leu	Ser	Ser	Thr	
50	ACC	GCG	GAG	AAT	ATC	ACC	CAG	ACC	GAT	GGG	TTC	TCA	TCT	GCC	TGG	ACG	1311
	Thr	Ala	Glu	Asn	Ile	Thr	Gln	Thr	Asp	Gly	Phe	Ser	Ser	Ala	Trp	Thr	
	GTT	CCT	TTC	GCG	TCG	CGC	ATG	TAC	GTC	GAG	ATG	ATG	CAA	TGC	CAG	TCC	1359
	Val	Pro	Phe	Ala	Ser	Arg	Met	Tyr	Val	Glu	Met	Met	Gln	Cys	Gln	Ser	

GAG CAG GAG CCT TTG GTC CGT GTC TTG GTT AAT GAT CGT GTT GTT CCG 1407
 Glu Gln Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Val Leu Val Asn Asp Arg Val Val Pro
 395 400 405
 5 CTG CAT GGC TGT CCG GTT GAT GCT TTG GGA AGA TGT ACG CGG GAT AGC 1455
 Leu His Gly Cys Pro Val Asp Ala Leu Gly Arg Cys Thr Arg Asp Ser
 410 415 420
 TTC GTG AAG GGG TTG AGC TTT GCC AGA TCT GGC GGT GAT TGG GGG GAG 1503
 Phe Val Lys Gly Leu Ser Phe Ala Arg Ser Gly Gly Asp Trp Gly Glu
 425 430 435 440
 10 TGT TTC GCT TAG 1515
 Cys Phe Ala
 443

15 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:
 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 32
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 20 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid, synthetic DNA
 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

25 GGGGAATTCAT GGGCGTCTCT GCTGTTCTAC TT 32

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:
 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 32
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 30 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid, synthetic DNA
 35 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

GGGGAATTCCT AAGCAAAACA CTCCGCCCAA TC 32

40

Claims

- 45 1. A phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
 2. A phytase according to claim 1 having the following physicochemical properties:
 (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 50 (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate,
 fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate;
 and
 55 (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
 3. A phytase according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the phytase is a protein selected from proteins having the amino
 acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the

amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.

- 5 4. A phytase according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the phytase is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
5. A phytase according to claim 4 wherein the microorganism belonging to the Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
- 10 6. A phytase according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the phytase has carbohydrate chains.
7. A gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
- 15 8. A gene according to claim 7 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - 20 (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and
 - (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
- 25 9. A gene according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
- 30 10. A gene according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the gene is a gene selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS:4 and 5.
11. A gene according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the gene is a gene derived from a microorganism belonging to the
- 35 genus Aspergillus.
12. A gene according to claim 11 wherein the microorganism belonging to the Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
- 40 13. Recombinant DNA obtained by introducing into a vector a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
14. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - 45 (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate;
 - 50 and
 - (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
15. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid
- 55 sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.

16. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the gene is selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS:4 and 5.
17. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the gene is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
18. Recombinant DNA according to claim 17 wherein the microorganism belonging to the Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
19. Recombinant DNA according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the recombinant DNA is pANPHY1.
20. A transformant carrying recombinant DNA obtained by introducing into a vector a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
21. A transformant according to claim 20 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;
 - (3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;
 - (4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and
 - (5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.
22. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate.
23. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the gene is a gene selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 5.
24. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the gene is a gene derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
25. A transformant according to claim 24 wherein the microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
26. A transformant according to claim 20 or 21 wherein the recombinant DNA is pANPHY1.
27. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms belonging to the genera Escherichia, Serratia, Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Trichoderma, Neurospora, Mucor, Penicillium, Kluyveromyces, Saccharomyces and Schizosaccharomyces.
28. A transformant according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of Aspergillus niger MH-PA1 (FERM BP-5372), Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1 (FERM BP-5373) and Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3.
29. A process for preparing a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 μ M when using phytic acid as the substrate, which comprises culturing in a medium a microorganism having the ability to produce and accumulate the phytase, producing and accumulating the phytase, and recovering the phytase from the culture.
30. A process according to claim 29 wherein the phytase has the following physicochemical properties:
 - (1) molecular weight (by SDS-PAGE): about 60 kDa after treatment with endoglycosidase H;
 - (2) optimum pH: pH 5.0 to 6.5;

(3) optimum temperature: 45 to 65 °C showing maximum activity;

(4) substrate specificity: acting on the substrates, phytic acid, p-nitrophenylphosphate, D-glucose 6-phosphate, fructose 6-phosphate, D-myo-inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, glycerol phosphate, and adenosine triphosphate; and

(5) isoelectric focusing: pI 4.7 to 5.4.

31. A process according to claim 29 or claim 30 wherein the microorganism is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
32. A process according to claim 29 or claim 30 wherein the microorganism is a transformant carrying recombinant DNA obtained by introducing into a vector a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 µM when using phytic acid as the substrate.
33. A process according to claim 32 wherein the gene codes for a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, or a protein which has an amino acid sequence where in the amino acid sequence of a protein selected from proteins having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS:1, 2 and 3, one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted or added and which has a phytase activity with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 µM when using phytic acid as the substrate.
34. A process according to claim 32 wherein the gene is selected from the DNAs shown in SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 5.
35. A process according to claim 32 wherein the gene is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus.
36. A process according to claim 35 wherein the microorganism belonging to the genus Aspergillus is selected from Aspergillus niger SK57 (FERM BP-5473) or Aspergillus niger SK92 (FERM BP-5481).
37. A process according to claim 32 wherein the recombinant DNA is pANPHY1.
38. A process according to claim 32 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms belonging to the genera Escherichia, Serratia, Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Trichoderma, Neurospora, Mucor, Penicillium, Kluyveromyces, Saccharomyces and Schizosaccharomyces.
39. A process according to claim 32 wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of Aspergillus niger MH-PA1 (FERM BP-5372), Aspergillus nidulans M-PA1 (FERM BP-5373) and Aspergillus oryzae MO-PG3.
40. An animal feed comprising a phytase with a Michaelis constant of 10 to 30 µM when using phytic acid as the substrate.

Fig. 1

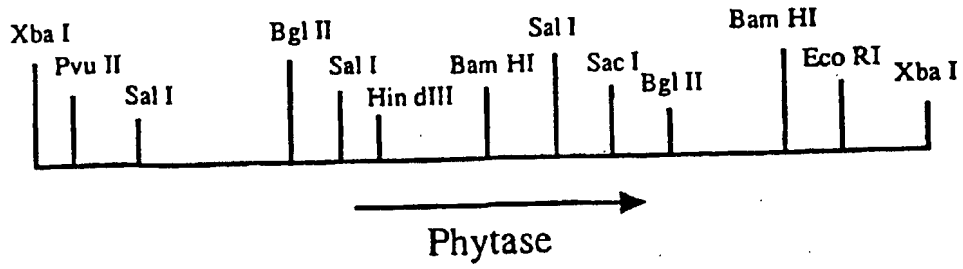


Fig. 2

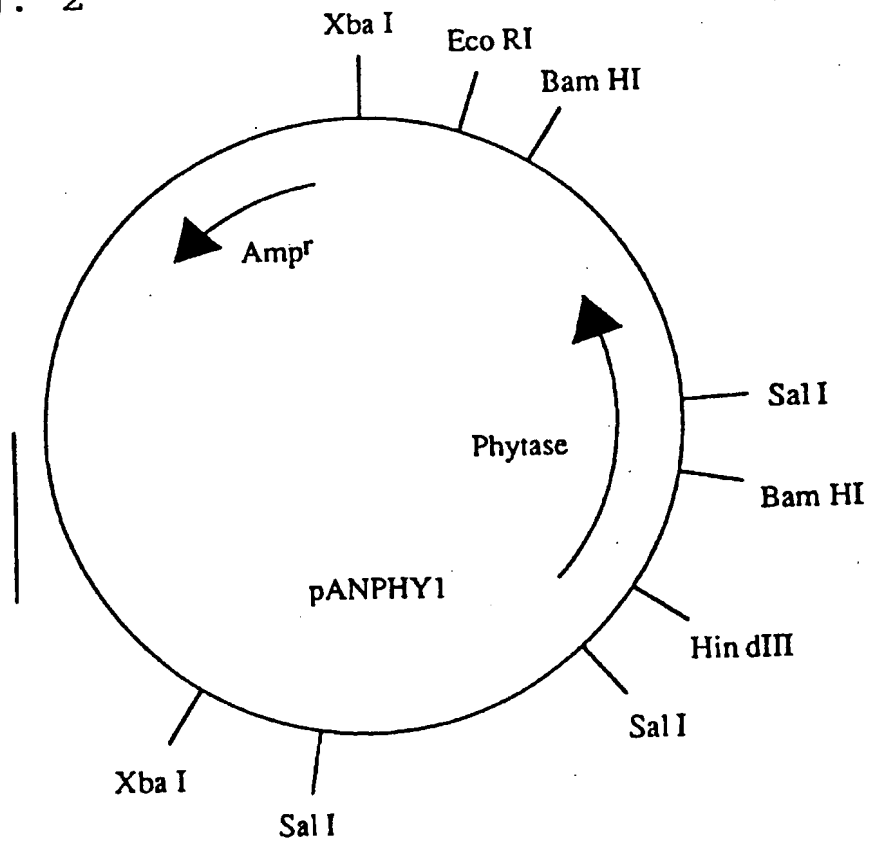


Fig. 3

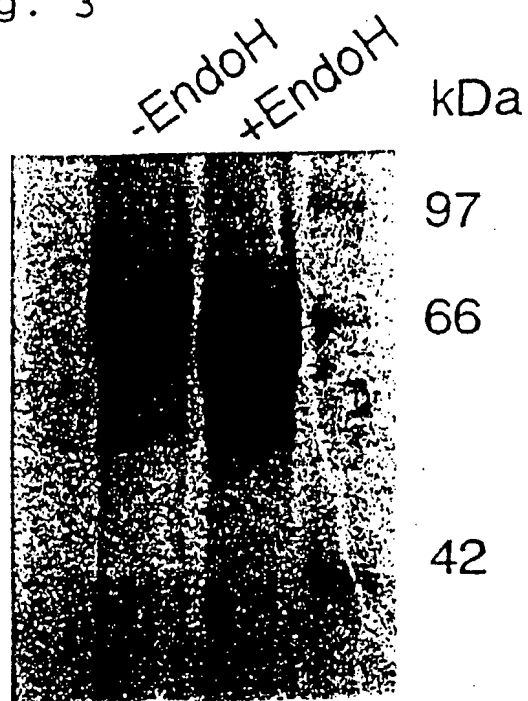


Fig. 4

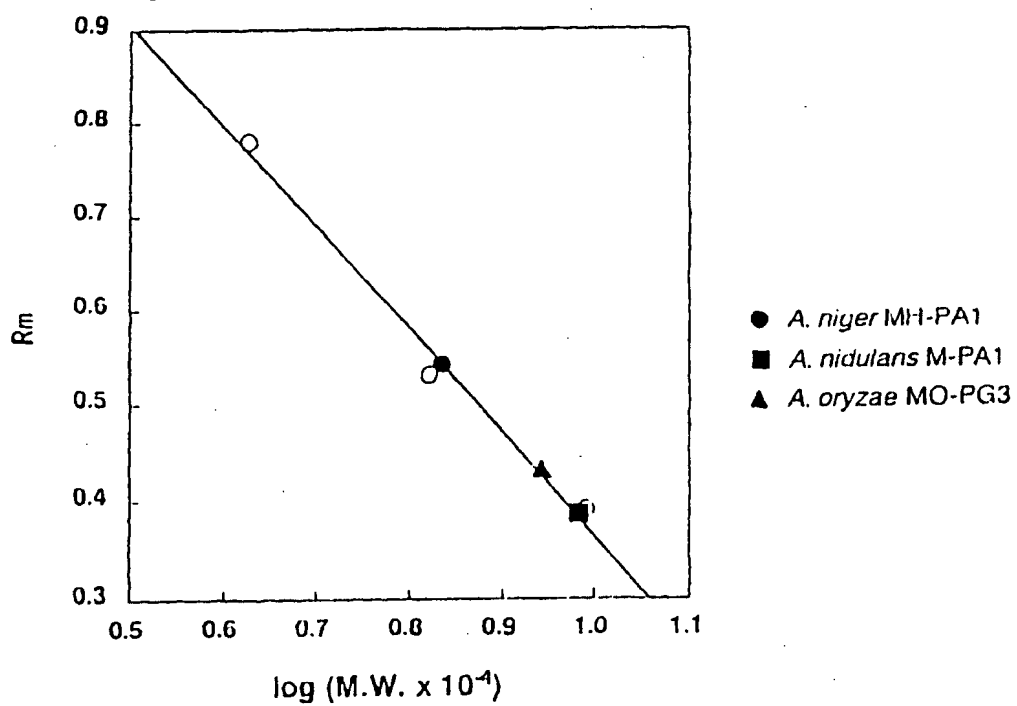


Fig. 5

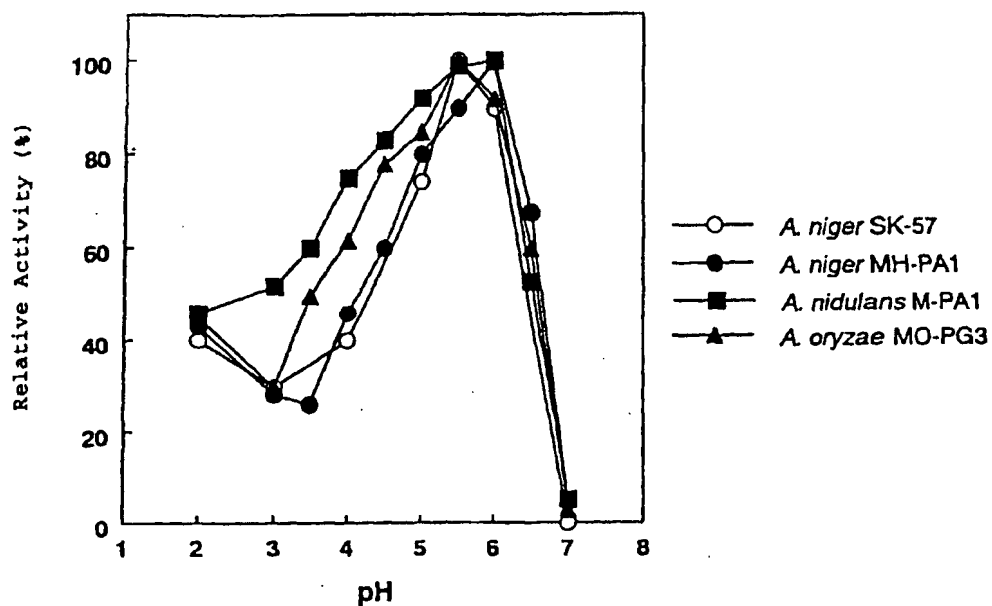


Fig. 6

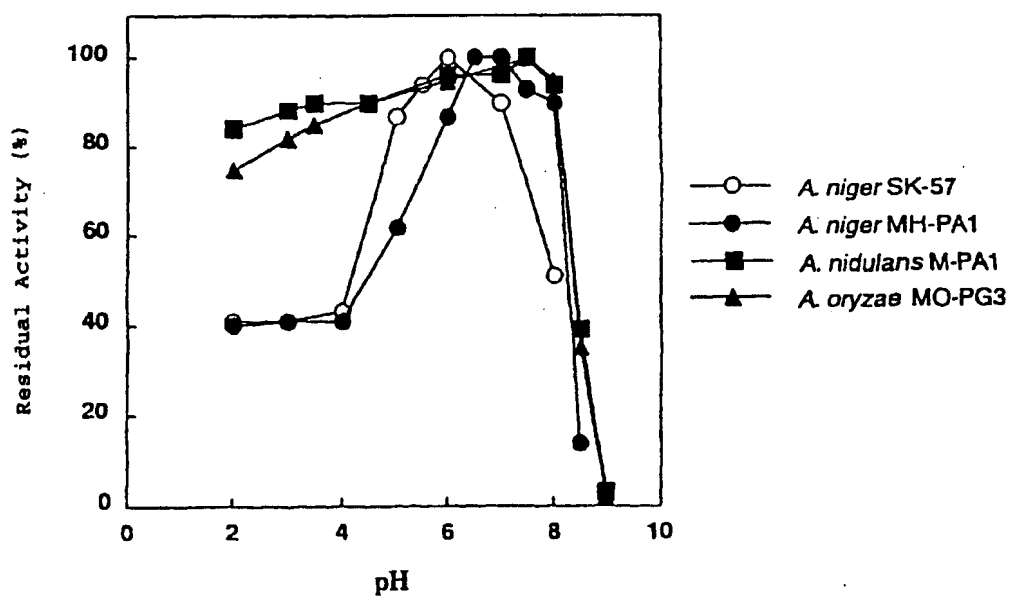


Fig. 7

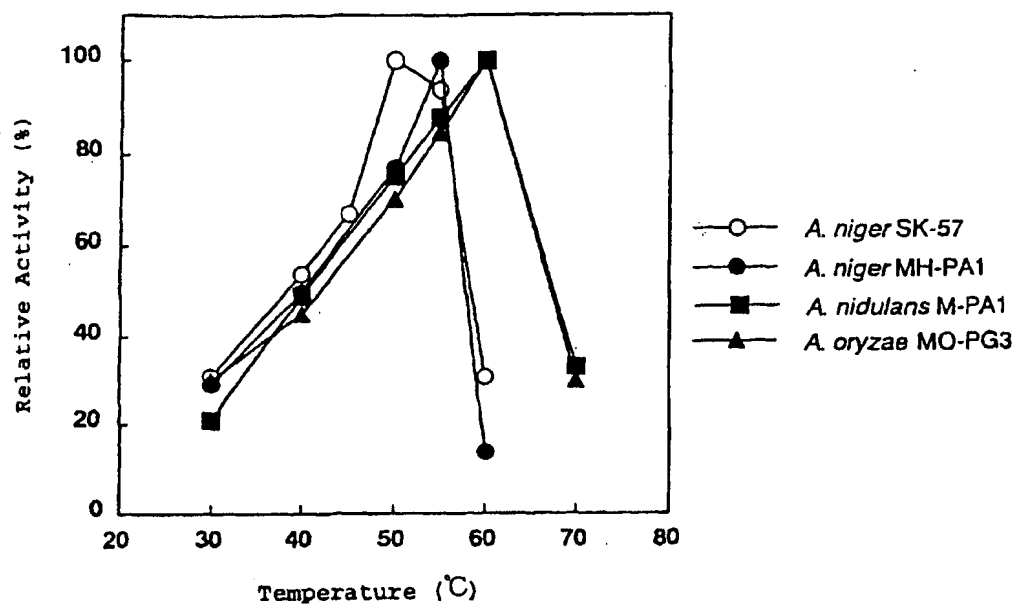


Fig. 8

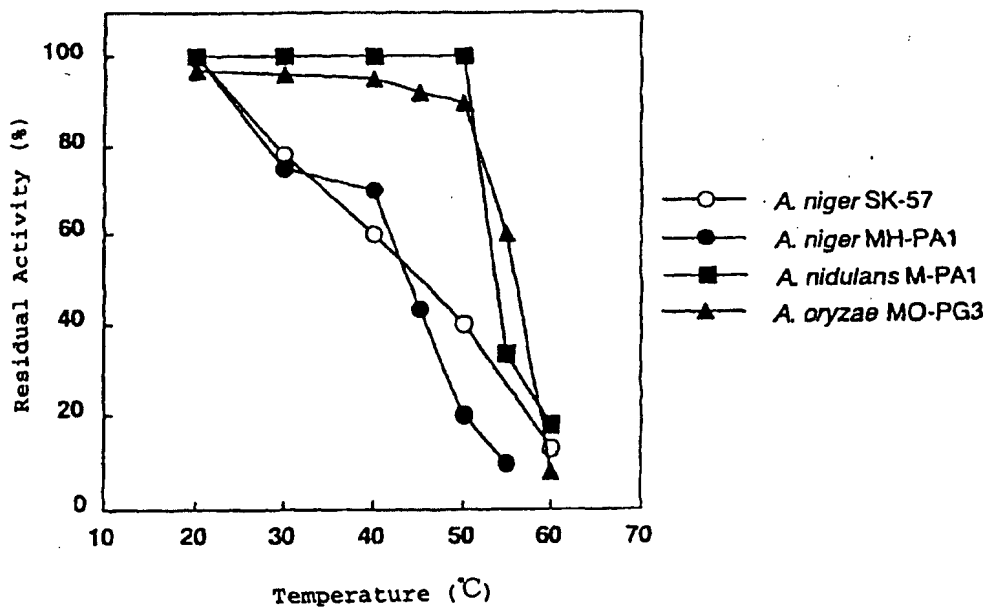
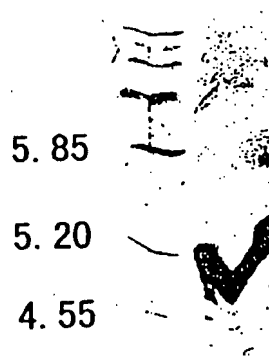


Fig. 9



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/01175

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl ⁶ C12N9/16, C12N15/55, C12N1/15, C12N1/19, C12N1/21, A23K1/165 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. Cl ⁶ C12N9/16, C12N15/55, C12N1/15, C12N1/19, C12N1/21, A23K1/165 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPI/L, CAS ONLINE, BIOSIS, GENETYX-CD		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Agric. Biol. Chem, 49(12) (1985), p. 3539-3544	1, 40
A	JP, 6-501838, A1 (Gist-Brocades N.V. and another), March 3, 1994 (03. 03. 94) & EP, 449375, A1 & WO, 91/14782, A1 & US, 5593963, A	1 - 40
A	JP, 4-506007, A1 (Gist-Brocades N.V.), October 22, 1992 (22. 10. 92) & EP, 420358, A1 & WO, 91/05053, A1 & US, 5436156, A	1 - 40
A	JP, 7-95946, B2 (Ichibiki K.K.), October 18, 1995 (18. 10. 95) (Family: none)	1 - 40
A	Gene, 133 (1993), p. 55-62	1 - 40
A	Gene, 127 (1993), p. 87-94	1 - 40
A	Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol, 35 (1991), p. 611-614	1 - 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reasons (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "Z" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
July 1, 1997 (01. 07. 97)		July 8, 1997 (08. 07. 97)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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